

TWO SICILIES  

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T R A V E L S

I N T H E

T W O S I C I L I E S.

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VOL. III.

A



THE A. V. E. S.



TWO SHILLINGS

A

Vol. III

T R A V E L S  
IN THE  
T W O S I C I L I E S,

BY  
HENRY SWINBURNE, Esq.

IN  
The Years 1777, 1778, 1779, and 1780.  
THE SECOND EDITION.

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V O L. III.

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QUI VERUM ATQUE DECENS CURO.— HOR.

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L O N D O N:  
PRINTED BY J. NICHOLS,  
FOR T. CADELL, AND P. ELMSLY,  
IN THE STRAND

M. DCC. XC.

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IN THE

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H E N R Y S W I N B U R N E , E T C .

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OF THE

THIRD VOLUME.

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|                                                                                                                                                                          |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| SECTION I. <i>Environs of Naples—Capri</i><br>— <i>Villa of Tiberius.—Quails.—La Marina.—</i><br><i>Anacapri.</i>                                                        | Page 1 |
| SECT. II. <i>Procida.—Divers.—John of Pro-</i><br><i>cida.—Ischia.—Eruption of Lava.—Baths.—</i><br><i>Mount Epomeo.—Hermitage.</i>                                      | 12     |
| SECT. III. <i>Baths.—Foria.—History of Ischia.—</i><br><i>Liternum.—Scipio's Tomb and Villa.—Cuma.</i>                                                                   | 24     |
| SECT. IV. <i>Lake Fusaro.—Tomb of Marius.—</i><br><i>Promontory of Miseno.—Mare Morto.—Dock-</i><br><i>yard of Augustus.—Piscina Mirabile.—Elysian</i><br><i>Fields.</i> | 33     |
| SECT.                                                                                                                                                                    |        |

|                                                                                                                                |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| SECT. V. <i>Bauli.—Ruins of Baiæ.—History of<br/>— Baiæ.—Nero's Baths.—Monte Novo.—Lucrine<br/>Lake.</i>                       | 41  |
| SECT. VI. <i>Lake Averna—its History—Temple.</i>                                                                               | 51  |
| SECT. VII. <i>Puzzuoli.—Temple of Serapis.—<br/>Via Campana.—Solfatara.—Park of Afruni.—<br/>Boar Hunting.—Lake of Agnano,</i> | 57  |
| SECT. VIII. <i>Nisida.—Posilipo.—Tomb of San-<br/>nazar.—His Character.—Grotto.—Tomb of<br/>Virgil.—Pollio's Ponds.</i>        | 67  |
| SECT. IX. <i>View and Description of Naples</i>                                                                                | 87  |
| SECT. X. <i>Lottery.—Municipal Government.</i>                                                                                 | 99  |
| SECT. XI. <i>History of Naples.—Character of<br/>the ancient and present inhabitants compared.—<br/>Jews.</i>                  | 110 |
| SECT. XII. <i>Caserta Palace.—Aqueduct.—Breed<br/>of Horses.</i>                                                               | 127 |
| SECT. XIII. <i>Journey to and from Pesto.—<br/>Herculaneum.—Palace and Museum of Portici.<br/>—Encampment.—Pompeii.</i>        | 137 |
| SECT. XIV. <i>La Scafato.—Nocera.—Siege of<br/>the Castle.—Character of Inhabitants.</i>                                       | 157 |
| SECT.                                                                                                                          |     |



|                                                        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| SECT. XV. <i>Ancient Church.—Fine View.—</i>           |       |
| <i>La Cava.—Abbey of La Trinita.</i>                   | 167   |
| SECT. XVI. <i>Description of Salerno.</i>              | 176   |
| SECT. XVII. <i>History.—School of Physic.</i>          | 184   |
| SECT. XVIII. <i>Description of the Ruins of</i>        |       |
| <i>Pæstum.—History.</i>                                | 194   |
| SECT. XIX. <i>Manner of catching Wood-pigeons.</i>     |       |
| <i>—Convent of Camaldoli in the Mountains.—</i>        |       |
| <i>Majuri.</i>                                         | 207   |
| SECT. XX. <i>Description and History of Amalfi.</i>    |       |
| <i>—Institution of the Order of Malta.—Discovery</i>   |       |
| <i>of the Nautical Compass.</i>                        | 218   |
| SECT. XXI. <i>Pandeets found.</i>                      | 230   |
| SECT. XXII. <i>Tunny Fishery.—Isles of the Sirens.</i> |       |
| <i>—Spirits of Donerana.</i>                           | 237   |
| SECT. XXIII. <i>Geographical View of Sicily.—</i>      |       |
| <i>Coins, Weights, and Measures.</i>                   | 252   |
| SECT. XXIV. <i>History of Sicily.</i>                  | 262   |
| SECT. XXV. <i>Voyage to Palermo.</i>                   | 287   |
| SECT. XXVI. <i>History and Description of Pa-</i>      |       |
| <i>lermo.</i>                                          | 294   |
| SECT. XXVII. <i>Insurrection.</i>                      | 303   |
| SECT. XXVIII. <i>Assemblies.—Museum.</i>               | 312   |
| 7                                                      | SECT. |



|                                                                                                                          |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| SECT XXIX. <i>Environs of Palermo.—Monte Pelegrino.—Sanctuary of St. Rosalia.—La Bagaria.—Villa Palagonia.</i>           | 317 |
| SECT XXX. <i>Ruins of Solus.—Villa Valguarnera.—Manna Asb.—Montreale.—Character of the late Archbishop.—Torre Zizza.</i> | 328 |
| SECT. XXXI. <i>Journey to Girgenti.—Favarotta.—Alcamo.</i>                                                               | 339 |
| SECT XXXII. <i>Calatafimi.—Ruins of Segesta.—Evening Assembly.</i>                                                       | 350 |
| SECT XXXIII. <i>Open Country.—View of the African Sea.—Castelvetrano.</i>                                                | 360 |
| SECT XXXIV. <i>Vale of the Madiuni.—Ruins of Selinus.—Banks of the river Belici.</i>                                     | 366 |
| SECT XXXV. <i>Sciacca.—Civil Dissentions between Luna and Perollo.—Caricatore.—Corn Trade.</i>                           | 375 |
| SECT. XXXVI. <i>Description of Sciacca.—Mineral Water.—Baths.</i>                                                        | 383 |
| SECT XXXVII. <i>Ribera.—Language of Sicily.</i>                                                                          | 393 |
| SECT XXXVIII. <i>Passage of the Platani.—Siculiana.—New Port of Girgenti.</i>                                            | 401 |



# ENVIRONS

OF

# NAPLES.

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## SECTION I.

**A**FTER my return from Puglia, I devoted the cooler days of the ensuing summer and autumn to excursions in the neighbourhood of Naples, a country already described by many authors; but, as several of my readers may not possess those descriptions, I hope no apology need be made for including the capital in my general tour of the kingdom.

My first voyage was to the island of Capri\*, about eighteen miles south of Naples, at the entrance of the gulf. Steep cliffs and grand

\* Anciently called Caprea.

masses of rock gave it a wildness of feature, which, as I approached, was gradually softened by patches of verdure, and clusters of white houses.

The landscape round the place of debarking is composed of various trees rich in luxuriant foliage, cottages raised on terraces, a smooth strand with busy groups of mariners, painted boats drawn on shore, or dancing on the surge, villas peeping through the grove, and, to complete the scene, bold rocks projecting into the bosom of the deep. On a ridge between two rugged eminencies, which form the extremities of the island, and rear their shaggy summits to a tremendous height, I discovered the cupolas and buildings of the episcopal city; at a distance it had the appearance of a considerable place; on a nearer view it dwindled to a village.

From the town I followed an antient causeway to the eastern summit of Capri, where cliffs of stupendous altitude overhang the channel that  
separates



separates the island from Cape Campanella \*. Though my eyes had long been accustomed to vast as well as charming prospects, yet the view from hence is so extensive, grand, and beautiful, that it was impossible to behold it without emotions of surprise and rapture. At one glance I took in a range of coast exceeding one hundred miles in length, reaching from Mondragone to Cape della Licosa. Within these bounds is comprised an assemblage of objects that few countries can boast of; before me lay several rich and populous islands; Naples, with all its hills and swarming suburbs, backed by the towering Appenine; Vesuvius, pouring fourth volumes of smoke, at its feet innumerable villages and verdant plains contrasted with purple lavas; immediately under me, Minerva's Promontory, advancing towards Capri, and dividing the Neapolitan Bay from the semicircular basin of Salerno, at the bottom of which the sun-beams pointed out the white ruins of Pæstum. The

\* Anciently, Promonterium Athenæum, or Minervæ.



magnificence of this scene would baffle the skill of the greatest painter; how feeble then must be the idea my description can convey of the prospect enjoyed from the chapel of Santa Maria: This is a hermitage inhabited by a simple unlettered Anachoret, who vegetates on a spot, where persons of a very different cast of character once resided. Here stood the summer palace of Tiberius Cæsar; here he spent great part of ten years, hidden from the world, and wallowing in most beastly debaucheries; the filthy detail of his abominable life has been handed down to us by many authors, and recites such practices as seem incompatible with his advanced age and complicated infirmities; but the obscene sculptures and medals, which have been dug up in almost every corner of the island, prove to demonstration that the charge against him is well founded.

Dr. Giraldi, whose history of Capri is yet in manuscript, undertakes to defend Tiberius, and to prove that Suetonius is at least guilty of exaggeration. He argues that the only intelligence he



he could receive must have been drawn from vulgar report, not from any private documents, as whatever passed in Capri was hidden from the public eye; few had admission into an island chosen by a jealous sovereign for his place of retirement, not so much on account of its local beauties, as of the difficulty of access to it; whatever scenes these rocks might be witnesses to, were kept a profound secret, and this very air of mystery would naturally set the idle heads of Rome upon inventing a thousand strange tales to depreciate a prince already so universally detested. But to allow any force to the arguments advanced by this paradoxical author, we must suppose that all persons subservient to the brutal pleasures of the emperor were destroyed after his decease, or preserved an invincible silence; for neither of which hypotheses we have the least authority.

Before Tiberius came hither, Capri had attracted the notice of Augustus, as a most eligible retreat, in sight of populous cities, and almost in the center of the empire.

His successor preferred it to every other residence; and, in order to vary his pleasures, and enjoy the advantages as well as avoid the inconveniences of each revolving season, built twelve villas in different situations, dedicated to the twelve greater Gods; the ruins of some of them are still to be seen: at Santa Maria are extensive vaults and reservoirs, and on an adjoining brow are the remains of a light-house; two broken columns indicate the entrance of the principal court.

From hence I descended to the southern shore, where the Carthusians have a very spacious convent, founded in the reign of king Robert, by James Capri, a veteran commander. The side of the opposite hill is cut into terraces, supported by vaults, called *le Botteghe*, or the shops of the ancients; if they were built for that purpose, no doubt they were decorated with every elegant species of ornament that could allure the rich and indolent followers of the imperial court; at present all embellishments of art are torn off, and their

their place supplied by tufts of caper-bushes loaden with purple and white flowers, that mingle most happily with the ruined arcades.

I spent the sultry hours of the day in a house that overlooks the finest part of the island; across every break in the woods, or chasm in the hills, rows of nets are placed to intercept stock-doves and quails in their annual flights; the quantity taken of each sort, especially the latter, is almost incredible. I have the best authority for saying, that even in bad years the number of quails caught in Capri amounts to twelve thousand; in good years it exceeds sixty thousand; and in one remarkable year one hundred and sixty thousand were netted; eight years ago, in the month of May, forty-five thousand were taken in the course of one single day.

As soon as the heat abated and the leaves began to tremble with the evening zephyr, I wandered northwards through vineyards and orchards to the palace of La Marina, where Tiberius had a winter residence; columns and other fragments

of architecture scattered on the sands remain as memorials of its splendour ; a semicircular recess of net-work, the *opus reticulatum* of Vitruvius, raised against the cliff, seems to have been a part of the theatre ; the conduit that supplied the palace with water still exists.

In an adjacent vineyard some peasants were removing a pavement of black and white mosaic. The ruins stretch far into the sea, and that element has now resumed the territory from which it had formerly been expelled by the force of terraces and piers.

The soil is here richly vegetative, and composed of divers layers ; a deep stratum of good mould covers a yellow bole, under which lies a stone exactly similar to the tufa of the volcanical hills round Naples. The palace was built with this stone, but in its coarser parts, such as abutments and back walls, are inserted large pieces of lava in a rough state of torrefaction, like that of the crust of Vesuvian streams when cooled ; yet the upper rocks of Capri are universally calcareous,  
and



and homogeneal with the strata of the Sorrentine mountains, of which it appears to have been a part, till split asunder, and cast off by an earthquake that buried the intermediate grounds in the sea: perhaps these lower tracks of land in Capri have been thrown up by fire in the midst of lime-stone mountains, in the same manner as the plain of Sorrento.

According to Dion Cassius, this island was wild and barren before the Cæsars took it under their immediate protection; at this day a large portion of its surface is uncultivated and impracticable; but every spot that will admit the hoe is industriously tilled, and richly laden with the choicest productions of agriculture. The odium attached to the memory of Tiberius proved fatal to his favourite abode; scarce was his death proclaimed at Rome, ere the senate issued orders for the demolition of every fabrick he had raised on the island, which by way of punishment was thenceforward destined to be a state-prison. The wife and sister of Commodus were banished to its inhospitable



inhospitable rocks, which were soon stained with their blood.

In the middle ages Capri became an appendage of the Amalfitan republic, and after the downfall of that state, belonged to the duchy of Naples.

The accommodations at the inn were so bad, that I preferred the awning of my boat to its beds, and rose with the day to climb the western rocks, which separate the district of Anacapri from the rest of the island; the communication is maintained between them by means of a long flight of rugged steps winding up a cliff of frightful height. These stairs are steep and slippery, yet loaded asses find no difficulty in going up and down. Anacapri is a little town consisting of a few streets and scattered houses, a nunnery and a parish church, all charmingly embowered in groves of fruit-trees, and surrounded with gardens neatly drest and luxuriantly productive; yet I could perceive a great backwardness in the fruits of this region com-

pared with those of the low grounds. The territory of Anacapri lies on a declivity, inclining to the north, bounded by a high rocky shore, impervious to all attacks: the southern and eastern aspects are perpendicular precipices of an astonishing elevation. On the brink of one of them stand the ruins of a castle more perilously situated than any I ever saw.

The rays of the sun now began to dart with great force, and warned me to hasten down to my barge, that the middle hours of the day might be spent at sea, where the heat is much more supportable than on shore.

This isle reunites such a variety of beauties and advantages, that it is a matter of wonder to me, why so few of our misanthropic countrymen resort to it; a man of an indolent philosophical cast would here be suited with a scene for meditation and solitary enjoyments; the temperature of the air, and the excellence of the fruits, would secure his health; and the delightful scenery round him would dispel his cares, and  
give

give an even chearful flow to his spirits. An English gentleman of the name of Thorold spent many years of his life here, at a charming retreat which he had formed with every convenience the climate required, in one of the most agreeable situations upon the island. If I am not misinformed, he breathed his last, and was interred in this his favourite residence.

## SECTION II.

**W**E stretched across the channel, which is about eighteen miles broad, with spreading sails, though we were threatened with squalls and showers; but no sooner had we weathered the east cape of Ischia, than a sudden gust laid the skiff on its side, and very near overset us.—The sailors shewed great presence of mind; and having dextrously lowered their canvases, took to their oars, without noise or confusion. The gale increased so furiously, and both wind and  
current

current bore so hard against us, that we were glad to fly for shelter to a cavern under the royal palace of Procida \*. Here the water was smooth as glass, and while the storm raged without, our barge lay motionless on the deep clear pool. A boy belonging to the crew amused himself and me with diving for pieces of money which I threw into the water: there are few divers more expert than the Neapolitans; I have frequently found their stay under water to exceed two minutes, and have been assured that some can and do remain longer. Their common method of taking oysters, sea-urchins, and other shell-fish, is to plunge in head foremost among the rocks of Posilipo or Santa Lucia, and with a strong knife wrench the shells off the stones to which they adhere, then, rising to the surface, throw their booty into a floating basket tied to their foot. This fishery brings in a handsome profit, amounting to eight or ten carlini a day to each

\* Anciently Prochyta.

diver;

diver; but the violence of the exertion, and the pressure of the water, weaken their lungs and shorten their lives; few reach the age of thirty years. When they go in search of the razor-fish, called in Neapolitan \* *cannolicchi*, they walk up to their chins in the sea backwards and forwards, with the greatest gravity and attention, moving their feet sideways along the sand, till they feel the sharp edge of a razor shell, then they dart down with amazing rapidity and seize their prey. From this stately deportment comes the local proverbial expression of a person walking about in a brown study, he is fishing for *cannolicchi*.

The upper part of the cliffs of Procida, in which many spacious caverns have been worn by the waves, or left empty in the convulsive boilings that raised the island above the waters, is a tufa stone of various hues, brown, white, yellow, and purple. Near the edge of the sea, and below its surface, the foundation of this

\* Solen Ensis. Linnæo Vermes. Testacea.



ponderous mass is a stratum of rough dark-purple lava. The king's house stands on the point of this excavated promontory; and contiguous to it is the town of S. Cataldo, built upon an elevated isthmus that divides the channel, through which ships coming from the north are wont to pass, from a round harbour, fit only for the reception of small vessels. The king sometimes visits this place for the sake of shooting.

This island gave birth to, or was at least the property of, John of Procida, a man of great fame in the annals of the thirteenth century. Though rich and nobly born, this extraordinary person did not disdain the practice of physic, but improved a strong natural genius by every help the scanty knowledge of the age afforded. The great features of his character were, sagacity in forming a scheme, activity, daringness, and perseverance in pursuing it; with these qualities, he undertook to revenge himself and his countrymen of the Provençals, who, under Charles of Anjou, had reduced both Sicilies to slavery,  
and

and destroyed the house of Swabia. Some authors ascribe his animosity to a personal insult received from that prince ; but Procida seems to have wanted no stronger incitement than his inviolable attachment to the memory of his old masters, and a quick sense of his country's wrongs. The plan for destroying the French being settled, he prepared the catastrophe by unwearied pains and exertions : under a variety of disguises, he visited Spain and Greece, to excite the ambition of their respective sovereigns ; he insinuated himself into the private meetings of the Sicilians, and by incendiary discourses fed the fire of discontent, till he saw the proper moment for blowing it up into a flame : at his nod, though perhaps the crisis was hastened by some accidental outrages, all Sicily rose in arms at the sound of the fatal evening bell \*, and almost every Frenchman perished.

\* The massacre known by the name of the Sicilian Vespers, on Easter Monday, March 30, 1282.

The earliest writers of history speak of Pro-  
cida, as of land torn from the continent by the  
violence of earthquakes and fiery commotions.  
It must have long remained unfit for the purposes  
of society, for in the time of the first Cæsars it  
is described as a desert; at present it is neither  
fruitful nor agreeable to the eye.

The wind being abated, we stood out again,  
and landed at the Borgo d'Ischia \*, a pretty  
town of white buildings, and the residence of a  
bishop. A round rock, as black as if just  
launched out of the bowels of a volcano, forms  
a kind of haven by means of a causeway com-  
municating with the Borgo; its summit and  
sides are covered with houses, old turrets, and  
ruinous fortifications huddled together, and ac-  
cessible only on one side, by a steep winding  
road. The last princes of the illegitimate branch  
of Arragon took refuge in this fortress, when

\* In ancient times the island of Ischia was known by the  
names of Inarime, Arime, Pithecusa.

their capital opened its gates to the French conqueror: the Ischians were strongly attached to that family, most of them being descended from Spanish veterans settled there by Alphonfus the First, on the forfeited estates of the former inhabitants.

From the Borgo I proceeded on foot along high grounds that hang over the shore, and soon arrived at a bed, or stagnated torrent, of lava, near a quarter of a mile broad, fresh and bare as if lately cast out of the furnace, but in a rougher more disturbed form, and of a greyer colour than that of the Vesuvian lavas. I ascended about a mile to the crater, which is on the declivity of the central mountain of the island, circular, shallow, and embanked with a vast mound of cinders; it is full of lava, twisted and curled as if, while in a fluid state, it had been stirred round with a stick; no vegetation has as yet taken place on these substances, though they have been exposed to the air since the year 1301. The eruption lasted near two months, and

and caused such devastation in the human and animal species, by the malignity of its vapours and poisonous quality of its ashes, that whoever could escape, fled from this land of horror. The furious workings under ground forced up a prodigious quantity of stones besides liquid matter, and rocks were formed in the sea, where they still appear above water.

Having passed this scene of desolated nature, I struck into a romantic path that led me through neat hamlets, before the gates and avenues of small well-situated villas, and across vineyards and orchards, rich in a variety of productions; now and then it drew me over uneven heaths grown up with myrtles, honeysuckles, and numberless other sorts of flowers, from which my feet dashed up clouds of perfume; the sea beat gently below, and on my left hand the lofty mountain Epomeo cast a shadow over all the lesser hills. At the end of my walk at Casamicciola, a gentleman, who was apprised of my coming, received me with great civility at his



house, which commands one of the finest prospects in the island; the beauty of a noble expanse of water is happily contrasted with the more variegated elegance of the land view; for the country is a perfect garden, dotted with houses of a picturesque form and lively colour.

As soon as the ensuing dawn appeared, I ascended Epomeo, a mountain from which the whole island falls in a gentle slope each way, except to the north, where its sides are more abrupt, and large piles of pointed rocks appear through the forest. I rode upon an ass, the safe and only conveyance in these steep and difficult roads.

My first halt was at the hot baths of La Misericordia, where a crowd of sick people was bathing in the smoking spring; there is a spacious hospital adjoining: I could not stay to admire the beauties of the situation, for the effluvia of the waters were fetid in a supreme degree, and the sight of so many patients afflicted with cutaneous and loathsome complaints, extremely

extremely disagreeable. I hurried away to pleasanter scenes, by a path that winds up the hill, and sometimes crosses narrow glens; it led me through groves of aged chestnut-trees, and over wastes covered with aromatic plants, to the south side of the mountain; occasional glimpses through the glades, beguiled the tediousness of the way, and prepared me for the unparalleled prospect I was to enjoy from the summit. At last I rose above the woody region, and entered a naked track riven to pieces by torrents, that rush down the cliffs after the melting of the snows in spring, or the heavy rains that follow the autumnal equinox; the soil is a white clay; the jagged peaks that compose the cone of the mountain are either yellow stone or white marley earth, scarcely affording room for cultivation; but in all the patches of level ground, vines and fruit-trees seem to thrive very well. I arrived at the summit just as the sun had extricated his orb out of a mass of heavy vapours that still hung upon the Appenine: as his rays diverged, the

fogs that floated on the sea vanished, and a view rose gradually to sight, of which so weak a pencil as mine can never give an adequate idea. The distant part of the picture displayed the most admirable marine and terrestrial scenery, while the fore-ground exhibited the richness of a fertile populous island. This vast expanse of sea and land lay unfolded before me like a chart on which every object was marked with precision.

The pinnacle of Epomeo is a white rock of tufa, in the heart of which is hewn a church, cells, galleries, and other conveniences for seven hermits, under the patronage of Saint Nicholas. These recluses subsist upon alms collected thrice a week about the island, while the season permits; but during some months of the year the snow lies so deep on this peak as to shut them out from all communication with mankind, and leave them undisturbed in their pious meditations. They have some plots of garden, but seem to exert themselves little in the culture or improve-

improvement of them; they find begging a much easier and pleasanter mode of procuring subsistence; the cells are dirty, and their inhabitants appear to have no turn for study or mechanics; their prior is a Frenchman, who twenty years ago was governor of the castle of Ischia, till, moved with compunction for the sins of his military life, and despairing of purity of conscience in the foul atmosphere below, he became an anachoret in this exalted region; he has been twelve years confined to his truckle-bed by the gout, but retains a fresh, florid complexion and tolerable spirits. The passage to the cells is contrived to wind through the rock so as to admit views of almost every part of the island; towards the south, the declivity is very gradual to the sea, and cloathed in the richest garb of vegetative nature: the north side of the mountain is more abrupt and destitute of verdure; at the foot of its tremendous point lies a circular basin, from whence, in former times, issued flames and fiery torrents, that

overwhelmed the country; but its operations have ceased during such an immense series of years, that the borders are tumbled in, and almost every distinctive feature of a crater obliterated. I descended through it on foot to il Laco, a most delightful spot, where I took a boat, and spent the evening on the water, on a fishing party.

### SECTION III.

NEXT day I visited the adjoining *stufse*, or vapour-baths, erected on a neck of land, which is composed of red and white solar earth, strongly impregnated with sulphur and other minerals, the usual concomitants of volcanos. All Ischia is of fiery origin, and this north-west angle more disturbed, and more overturned by eruptions, than any other part of it; its hillocks, wildly tumbled together, are  
mere



mere heaps of red calcined stone, full of heterogeneous matter, and tinged with various hues; under the baths the clay contains many red lumps incruited with chrysalisations. Patients are accommodated in five hovels, with seats to receive the vapour, which soon provokes perspiration, but sends forth no very pungent smell; persons suffering from partial pains fumigate the afflicted limb by applying it to a funnel made to fit it.

At the distance of a mile south of these sudatories is the town of Foria, inhabited by an industrious people; they employ a considerable number of small vessels in the carriage of their fruit and wines; but the want of a harbour exposes them to great losses in stormy weather. The houses of this burgh are solidly built; but the streets are almost too narrow for an ass with a pair of panniers. The environs are extremely fertile; the young women I met coming down the mountain, with baskets of figs on their heads, are tall and handsome; their features regu-

regularly fine, their eyes sparkling, their shape and gait light and airy beyond expression.

At Foria I embarked for Ponza, and took my leave of Ischia, an island, which for richness of soil, abundance of products, and beauty of situation, may vie with the most celebrated spots on the face of the globe: these advantages have drawn many settlers to its shores, and added eight thousand new inhabitants to its list in the last thirty years.

The ancients believed Ischia to have been raised out of the bosom of the deep by the force of central fires: the Chalcydians were the first adventurers that dared to set foot on this igneous soil, and were amply repaid for their risks, by the immense wealth they drew from the settlement: however, continual earthquakes and eruptions forced them to abandon the place. Hiero the Second, king of Syracuse, who was indefatigable in advancing the commercial interests of his dominions, sent a colony to this island; but the emoluments falling short of his expectation

expectation, he soon withdrew his people; since that epocha, Ischia has usually obeyed the masters of the adjacent continent, and passed to new proprietors, in consequence of the same revolutions that transmitted the sovereignty of the neighbouring country.

The wind was so brisk and contrary, that after many vain attempts, we found it impossible to reach the islands of Ponza; it therefore became necessary to form a new plan, and to steer to the dreary flat shore of Patria, where, on the edge of a large pond, are some heaps of stones, the ruins of Liternum.\*

Hither P. Cornelius Scipio Africanus withdrew from the accusations of his enemies, and spent his latter days in philosophical retirement: by this voluntary exile, he preserved his person from indignity, without being indebted for his safety to a dispensation of any positive

\* Its coins bear the names of Cuma and Liternum jointly, and are of Roman times. They differ very little from the medals of Naples.

though

though unjust law of his country. Seneca mentions having slept in the villa which two hundred years before had been the asylum of that hero: he describes it as a substantial building, in a garden, surrounded with high walls, and flanked with towers, to defend it against a sudden attack; in it was a cistern capable of containing water enough for an army to drink; and for the private use of the master, a small gloomy bath after the simple fashion of those times \*. This shore was probably less unwholesome when Scipio lived here, than it is in its present uncultivated state, overflowed with fetid pools of brackish water; but whatever allowances may be made for diminution of culture and population, and for an increase of water and noxious steams, I cannot think so low and flat a coast can ever have been a good summer abode.

\* Vidi villam structam lapide quadrato murum circumdatum sylvæ; turres quoque in propugnaculum villæ utrimque subrectas, cisternam ædificiis et viridibus subditam quæ sufficere in usum vel exercitus posset; balnéolum angustum tenebricosum ex consuetudine antiquâ.

If tradition can be relied upon, Scipio's ashes were deposited here, and the word *Patria* still remaining fixed in the wall of a watch-tower, and giving name to the adjacent lake, is a fragment of his \* angry epitaph. It is at least certain, that no urn or monumental inscription belonging to this illustrious member of the family has been found in the sepulchre of the Scipios lately discovered at Rome, near the gate of Saint Sebastian.

From hence we rowed about six miles eastward to the insulated rock on which stood the citadel of Cuma, the first city founded in Italy by Grecian emigrants †, once the seat of commerce, the parent of Naples, and the capital of a state that ruled the seas before either Rome or Carthage were heard of; its

\* This epitaph, as given by modern authors, runs thus: *Ingrata Patria neque enim mea ossa habebis.*

† I mean according to the opinion of the Greek historians; for it is more than probable that the Tyrrhenians, and other ancient inhabitants of Italy, came originally from Greece and other eastern countries.

prof-



prosperity was of long continuance, while yet the power of infant Rome remained cramped within the narrow limits of her own plain. Under the sway of Aristodemus, Cuma afforded an asylum to Tarquin the Proud, the deposed king of Rome, whom all the neighbouring potentates had attempted in vain to assist, or had refused relief to. This harbourer of a banished prince had attained the height of power, by subverting the liberties of his country. In the 64th Olympiad, the Tyrrhenians attacked Cuma, in hopes of plundering her rich stores, the fruits of long and successful traffick, but were driven off with loss : in this emergency the republick owed her safety to the courage and conduct of Aristodemus, and rewarded his services with every mark of honour a free state can bestow. He soon became so popular a leader, as to excite the jealousy of the senate; with a view to his destruction, they sent him with a very small force to defend the city of Aricia against the Tuscans; but by the exertion of great military talents,

Aristo-

Aristodemus terminated the campaign gloriously, and when he returned to Cuma, availed himself of the attachment of the troops, to destroy his enemies, and usurp the sovereign authority: he reigned many years with despotic sway, but at length, as it has happened to many other tyrants, was betrayed by his own creatures, and, with his whole family, put to the sword.

As Rome advanced in her fortunate career, the glory of all the neighbouring powers faded away before her; the Cumæans, in their turn, submitted to her yoke, and were treated with lenity; but real liberty was gone, and trade abandoned their shores; at length, the dullness and solitude of the place grew so profound, as to pass into a proverb\*. The Goths reduced it still lower, and at last, being merely a receptacle for thieves, it was in 1207 totally ruined and forsaken.

This rocky hill is the produce of an eruption, and hollowed into many spacious caverns,

\* *Vacuæ Cumæ.*—*Quieta Cyme*, &c.

amongst

amongst which we look in vain for the grotto where the Cumæan Sibyl pronounced her oracles; that sanctuary was destroyed in the Gothic war. Agathias informs us, that it was scooped into the form of a temple \*, the roof of which served as a foundation for one of the principal towers of the fortress. When Narses invested the citadel, he caused this rocky cover to be cut through in several directions, and then propped up with beams; as soon as every thing was in readiness for the assault, the wood was set on fire. Upon the props being consumed, the rocks gave way, and brought the walls down headlong with them into the temple; and on these accumulated ruins the Imperial troops entered the breach.

Cuma extended across the plain towards the east, where many ruins are still to be seen:

\* The Hermitage of Warkworth in Northumberland, celebrated by the Muse of Dr. Percy, Bishop of Dromore, may serve to give an idea of this Sibylline grotto.

every

every heavy shower of rain brings to light some fragment of the opulence and taste of its inhabitants. A large brick arch, called l'Arco Felice, thrown across a chasm in the ridge that bounds that plain on the east side, is supposed to have been a gate of the city, or a passage under a Roman aqueduct, not a monument of the ancient Cumæan republick.

#### SECTION IV.

**I** HERE took boat, and landed at the emissary or canal by which the lake Fusaro discharges its superfluous waters into the sea of Ischia. Here my conductors shewed me the ruins of the tomb of Caius Marius. As I am apt to believe that popular tales have always some foundation, however feeble, to rest upon, I think it probable that the ashes of a Roman of that name were deposited here; but it cannot

be those of the famous Consul ; because Sylla caused his remains to be taken out of the tomb, and scattered to the winds.

The lake is destitute of beauty, but valuable on account of its fisheries, and the flocks of water-fowl that blacken its surface. I sent my boat round, and walked across the isthmus, between Cape Procida and the Baian hills, under a continued canopy of vines ; this path led me to the Maremorto \*, a double pool, of which the outer division is open to the sea ; the inner one occasionally shut up for the purpose of fishing. A slip of sand divides it from the channel of Procida, and at the extremity rises the solitary shelving promontory of Miseno ; the ruins of a city of that name are scattered at its foot ; and the remains of a theatre are very apparent ; a fine fragment of the marble cornice is still left

\* This lake is said to be full of the worm that eats through the planks of ships.—As I saw none, I cannot speak with precision either as to its existence in those waters, or the species of the insect.



to bear testimony of the elegance with which it was decorated in the richest luxury of the Composite order.

When the second triumvirate perceived that their usurped power could never acquire consistency without the command at sea, they set about creating a maritime force. Classis, above Ravenna, was appointed to be the station of the fleet that was to over-awe the Adriatic, while the arsenal and rendezvous were established at Misenum, for the defence of the Mediterranean. In the infancy of their project, the navy of Octavianus Cæsar was almost annihilated off this very cape, by the fleet of Sextus Pompeius; a misfortune that served only to urge the cool persevering genius of the triumvir to redouble his activity in the pursuit of so great an object: he converted the natural cavities of Misenus into magazines; and by means of new roads opened a communication with the circumjacent country; wholesome waters, which were not to be found on the spot, were collected at various

distances, and brought upon aqueducts into immense reservoirs; the largest of these receptacles remains to this day in great preservation, and is known by the name of *Piscina mirabile*; it is a subterraneous cistern, divided into alleys by rows of square pillars, from which springs an arched roof: the incrustation formed anciently upon the plaistered walls by the sediment of the water, is now so strong an alabaster, as almost to defy the pick-axe; and so thick and compact, as to be susceptible of a very fine polish.

On this peninsula a villa was built by Caius Marius, with a degree of elegance that gave great offence to the more austere among the Romans, who thought it ill suited to the character of so rough a soldier; upon the same foundation Lucullus, the plunderer of the eastern world, erected an edifice, in comparison of which the former house was a cottage; but even his magnificence was eclipsed by the splendour of the palace which the emperors raised

raised on the same spot. To these proud abodes of heroes and monarchs, which have long been levelled to the ground, a few fishing huts, and a lonely public house, have succeeded; hither boatmen resort to tittle, perhaps on the identical site where the voluptuous masters of the world quaffed Chian and Falernian wines; a poor and infirm wretch lay venting his grief and soliciting my alms, within a few yards of the place where Tiberius Cæsar breathed out his gloomy soul. When such striking circumstances were brought into a point of comparison together, I fell into a train of serious reflection; and, wrapt up in contemplating the delusive pictures my imagination drew of ancient times, I felt the same not unpleasant melancholy that has often been excited in my mind by the lecture of the poems attributed to Ossian: I was led to allow too much merit to past ages, to refuse just praise to the times it is my lot to live in, and to repine at being doomed to vegetate in such degenerate days; but the sight of a

ship of war, sailing majestically across the gulf, the distant sound of her saluting guns, and the very telescope with which I viewed her progress, soon dispersed those clouds of spleen and false reasoning, and made me return thanks to Providence for having placed my lot in an age wherein arts, commerce, and science, are in so flourishing a state.

The channel, where the fleet of Agrippa moored, has now but one crazy cobble, stationed to ferry over passengers: I passed in it to the Elyfian fields, which are bounded on the north side by a small eminence, covered with vine-bearing trees; the face of the bank is hollowed into numberless caves and places of sepulture; and an ancient way leads from the ferry towards Capua between rows of monumental buildings, which, by an unusual permutation of property, from being filled with the ashes of the dead, are now occupied by living peasants: the cause of this road and its environs being so uncommonly crowded with  
tombs

tombs exists in the superstitious creed of the Pagans, who held inhumation necessary to salvation; and a grave the only door through which a soul could pass to a future state of happiness: according to the spirit of this tenet, neither the inhabitant who died peaceably in his bed at Misenum, nor the mariner who met his fate in battle or in shipwreck, was suffered by his friends to remain without the honours of the tomb: to every person, even of moderate rank, a suitable though perhaps empty mausoleum was erected in order to procure for his departed spirit free ingress into the Elysian shades. These circumstances coincided admirably with the fables and traditions concerning this country, which had been handed down from a very early period: Homer brings Ulysses hither, and here he fixes the scene of his Stygian machinery; thus the Maremorto passed for Acheron, and the adjoining fields for the vale of Elysium to which the dead were wafted in the boat of Charon. This was literally true with regard to such persons as died at Misenum.



On the surface of this funeral ground a strong wine is now produced; it has good qualities, which might be improved by greater care and skilfulness in the operation of the vintage; it possesses body, colour, and flavour, but is extremely rough, fiery, and heady—the price does not exceed eight pence a bottle: wine merchants buy it up, send it a few months to sea, and then vend it at Naples as liquor of a foreign growth.

As it is hazardous to pass the night on this shore before the equinoctial rains have washed away the baneful atoms, we put out to sea, and lay under the rocks of Procida in still water, till the beams of the rising sun called me up to pursue my route along this very interesting, though now almost deserted, coast.

SEC.

## SECTION V.

**I** RETURNED in the morning to the coast of Bauli, where some ruins are shown as the tomb of Agrippina the younger, murdered near this place by order of her son. It is true that her slaves burnt her body and deposited the ashes on the road to Bauli ; but these ruins bear a greater resemblance to a theatre, or hanging-garden, than to a sepulchre. The place of her interment is not to be ascertained, for the sea must now cover a large portion of land which formerly contained spacious gardens, fish-ponds, and buildings : Hortensius, the contemporary and rival of Cicero, possessed a villa on this shore, for which the present confined spot could not possibly afford sufficient space. We next entered a bay, where the placid waters reflect the mutilated remnants of Baiæ, that center of pleasures, that elegant resort of the  
gay

gay masters of the world. The hot springs and medicinal vapours that abound in its environs must very early have excited the attention of valetudinarians, as bathing was the constant solace of the Greeks while in health, and their remedy when diseased ; but Baia does not seem to have attained a degree of celebrity superior to that of other baths, till the Roman commonwealth began to be in the wane. As soon as the plunder of a conquered world was transferred from works of public use and ornament to objects of private luxury, the transcendent advantages which Baia offered to Roman voluptuaries, flying from the capital in search of health and pleasure, were attended to with enthusiasm : the variety of its natural baths, the softness of its climate, and the beauties of its landscape, captivated the minds of opulent nobles, whose passion for bathing knew no bounds : abundance of linen and disuse of ointments render the practice less necessary in modern life ; but the ancients performed no exercise, engaged  
in

in no study, without previous ablutions, which at Rome required an enormous expence in aqueducts, stoves, and attendants: a place, therefore, where waters naturally heated to every degree of warmth bubbled spontaneously out of the ground, in the pleasantest of all situations, was such a treasure as could not be overlooked. Baia was this place in the highest perfection; its easy communication with Rome was also a point of great weight. Hither at first retired for a temporary relaxation the mighty rulers of the empire, to string anew their nerves and revive their spirits, fatigued with bloody campaigns and civil contests. Their habitations were small and modest, but soon increasing luxury added palace to palace with such expedition and sumptuousity, that ground was wanting for the vast demand; enterprising architects, supported by infinite wealth, carried their foundations into the sea, and drove that clement back from its ancient limits\*: it has

\* *Marisque Baiis obstrepentis urges*

*Summoveve littora.—HOR.*

since



since taken ample revenge, and recovered much more than it ever lost.

From being a place of resort for a season, Baia now grew up to a permanent city; whoever found himself disqualified by age, or infirmity, for sustaining any longer an active part on the political theatre; whoever, from an indolent disposition, sought a place where the pleasures of a town were combined with the sweets of a rural life; whoever wished to withdraw from the dangerous neighbourhood of a court, and the baneful eye of informers; flocked hither, to enjoy life untainted with fear and trouble. Such affluence of wealthy inhabitants rendered Baia as much a miracle of art as it was before of nature; its splendour may be inferred from its innumerable ruins, heaps of marbles, mosaics, stucco, and other precious fragments of taste.

It flourished in full glory down to the days of Theodoric the Goth; but the destruction of these enchanted palaces followed quickly upon the irruption of the northern conquerors, who  
over-



overturned the Roman system, sacked and burnt all before them, and destroyed or dispersed the whole race of nobility. Loss of fortune left the Romans neither the means, nor indeed the thought, of supporting such expensive establishments, which can only be enjoyed in perfection during peace and prosperity. No sooner had opulence withdrawn her hand, than the unbridled sea rushed back upon its old domain; moles and buttresses were torn asunder and washed away; whole promontories, with the proud towers that once crowned their brows, were undermined and tumbled headlong into the deep, where, many feet below the surface, pavements of streets, foundations of houses, and masses of walls, may still be descried. Internal commotions of the earth contributed also largely to this general devastation; mephitic vapours and stagnated waters have converted this favourite seat of health into the den of pestilence, at least during the estival heats; yet Baiæ in its ruined state, and stripped of all its ornaments, still presents many beautiful and striking subjects for the pencil.

As

As we rowed under the lofty headlands, a Cicerone, whom I had met with at Baia, pointed to vaults and terraces, and allotted them respectively to the residence of some illustrious personage of antiquity. The sands abound with fragments rolled from the ruins, and some men employ themselves in the summer time in dragging the bottom of the sea with small baskets: they wash the sand in several waters, and seldom fail of bringing up a cornelian or medal that repays them for their time and labour.

From the highest point that forms the bay, a large castle commands the road, where foreign ships of war usually ride at anchor, the harbour of Naples not being spacious enough for the reception of a fleet: here they enjoy good shelter, watering, and victualling; but in summer risk the health of their crews, on account of the unwholesomeness of the air.

At the bottom of the bay, and at the foot of the steep rocks which serve as a foundation to the ruins called Nero's house, are some dark caves of great depth, leading to the hottest of all  
vapour

vapour baths: nobody can remain long in them, or indeed penetrate to the end, without an extraordinary degree of strength and resolution\*. The springs at the bottom of the grotto are so hot as to boil an egg hard almost instantaneously. These caverns seem to be the spot where Nature has opened the readiest access to the very focus of a volcano, which has been within the two

\* These baths, thirty in number, are said, but how truly I know not, to have been adorned with Greek inscriptions, and statues denoting, by their expressions and attitudes, what particular part of the human frame was affected and relieved from its pains by each particular bath. Parrino, in his Theatre of Viceröys, informs us, that three physicians of Salerno, apprehensive of the ruin the surprising efficacy and reputation of these waters would bring upon their college, came hither in the dead of night, mutilated the figures, defaced the letters, and, as far as their time would allow, disturbed the course of the springs; but the historian adds very gravely, that Hygeia, ever watchful over the health of Naples, revenged this barbarous outrage, by conjuring up a storm that buried the three doctors in the sea, before they could reach their home, or triumph in the success of their villainy.

last

last centuries most outrageous in its operations ; for to them must be attributed the overturning of the adjacent country, and the total alteration of its surface, by the birth of Monte Nuovo, which now blocks up the valley of Averno. In 1538, after previous notice by repeated quakings, the convulsed earth burst asunder, and made way for a deluge of hot ashes and flames, which being shot up to an immense height into the darkened atmosphere, fell down again all around, and formed a circular mound four miles in circumference, and one thousand feet high, with a large cup in the middle. Immediately after the explosion, the wind rose furiously, and waisted the lighter particles over the country, burning and blasting all vegetation in its progress : wherever these ashes, impregnated with poison, adhered to the grass, death became the immediate lot of all beasts that brouzed upon it. The terrors occasioned by this phenomenon threatened the abandonment of the whole district ; scarcely a family durst remain even within sight of  
this



this horrid heap, which had overwhelmed a large town, filled up a lake, and buried under it a very extensive tract of cultivated lands. To encourage people to return to this neighbourhood, Don Pedro de Toledo, viceroy of Naples, built a villa, and fixed his residence at Puzzuoli; his example, and time, that foother of woe, overcame the general consternation. When men are obliged to apply to daily labour for sustenance, and their minds are of course exclusively occupied by the idea of present necessities, the images of past disasters are easily obliterated, and, therefore, in a few years Don Pedro saw this district repopled.

Part of Monte Nuovo is cultivated; but the larger portion of its declivity is wildly overgrown with prickly broom, and rank weeds that emit a very fœtid sulphureous smell. The crater is shallow, its inside clad with shrubs, and the little area at the bottom planted with fig and mulberry trees; a most striking specimen of the amazing vicissitudes that take place in



this extraordinary country. I saw no traces of lava or melted matter, and few stones within.

Near the foot of this mountain the subterraneous fires act with such immediate power, that even the sand at the bottom of the sea is heated to an intolerable degree.

A long neck of land prevents the waves from washing into a sedgy pool the poor remnant of the Lucrine lake, once so renowned for the abundance and flavour of its shell-fish, of which large beds lined the shallows, while a deep channel in the middle afforded riding and anchorage for vessels, and a passage into the inner basin of Avernus; a small canal now serves to discharge the superabundant waters. I suppose, that originally the Lucrine was only a marsh occasionally overflowed by the sea, till Hercules gave it extent and depth, by raising a mound across, and damming out the salt water; that afterwards Augustus formed the Julian port, by raising this wear to a sufficient level, and thereby procuring depth of water for a navy to float in.

S E C.

## SECTION VI.

A SHADY walk conducted me, between Monte Nuovo and a thicket of reeds, to the banks of Avernus. This lake is circular, and hemmed in by an amphitheatre of hills on every side, except the break by which I approached it; distinctive marks of a volcanic crater.

The landscape, though confined, is extremely pleasing; the dark-blue surface of these unruffled waters, said to be three hundred and sixty feet deep, strongly reflects the tapering groves that cover its sloping inclosure: shoals of wild fowl swim about, and kingfishers shoot along under the banks; a large octagon temple in ruins advances majestically to the brink; its marble ornaments have long been removed, but its form and size still render it a noble object. It was, probably, dedicated to the infernal gods,

to whose worship these solemn scenes were formerly consecrated. Black aged groves stretched their boughs over the watery abyss, and with impenetrable foliage excluded almost every ray of wholesome light; mephitic vapours ascending from the hot bowels of the earth, being denied free passage to the upper atmosphere, floated along the surface in poisonous mists. These circumstances produced horrors fit for such gloomy deities; a colony of Cimmerians, as well suited to the rites as the place itself, cut dwellings in the bosom of the surrounding hills, and officiated as priests of Tartarus. Superstition, always delighting in dark ideas, early and eagerly seized upon this spot, and hither she led her trembling votaries to celebrate her dismal orgies; here she evoked the manes of departed heroes—here she offered sacrifices to the gods of hell, and attempted to dive into the secrets of futurity. Poets enlarged upon the popular theme, and painted its awful scenery with the strongest colours of their art. Homer brings Ulysses

Ulysses to Avernus, as to the mouth of the infernal abodes, and in imitation of the Grecian bard, Virgil conducts his hero to the same ground. The holiness of these shades remained unimpeached for many ages : Hannibal marched his army to offer incense at this altar ; but, I believe, he was led to this act of devotion rather by the hopes of surprizing the garrison of Puteoli, than by his piety.

After a long reign of undisturbed gloom and celebrity, a sudden glare of light was let-in upon Avernus : the horrors were dispelled, and with them vanished the sanctity of the lake ; the axe of Agrippa brought its forest to the ground, disturbed its sleepy waters with ships, and gave room for all its malignant effluvia to escape. The virulence of these exhalations is described by ancient authors as very extraordinary ; modern writers, who know the place in a cleared state only, charge these accounts with exaggeration ; but I think them entitled to more respect, for even now the air is feverish and dan-



gerous, as the jaundiced faces of the vine-dressers, who have succeeded the Sibyls and the Cimmerians in the possession of the temple, most ruefully testify.

Boccaccio relates, that, during his residence at the Neapolitan court, the surface of this lake was suddenly covered with dead fish, black and singed, as if killed by some *subaqueous* eruption of fire. At present it abounds with tench; the Lucrine with eels. The change of fortune in these lakes is singular: In the splendid days of imperial Rome, the Lucrine was the chosen spot for the brilliant parties of pleasure of a voluptuous court; they are described by Seneca as the highest refinement of extravagance and luxury; now, a slimy bed of rushes covers the scattered pools of this once-beautiful sheet of water, and the dusky Avernus is now clear and serene, offering a most alluring surface and charming scene for similar amusements.

Opposite the temple I entered a cave usually styled the Sibyl's Grotto; it seems more likely to have been the mouth of a communication  
between



between Cuma and Avernus, than the abode of a prophets; especially as the Sibyl is positively said by historians to have dwelt in a cavern under the Cumæan citadel. A most acute and indefatigable unraveller of antiquarian clews thinks it was part of the canal that Nero childishly projected from the mouth of the Tiber to the Julian port; a scheme that was crushed in its infancy.

On every hill, in every vale of the environs, appear the ruins of extensive villas, once embellished with all the elegancies of combined arts, now traced only by half-buried mouldering walls, and some marble fragments, left as it were to vouch for the taste and costliness with which they were constructed. In the last period of the Commonwealth, and during the gaudy æra of the Cæsars, almost every person of exalted rank had a house in this country, which the sagacious antiquaries of Puzzuoli point out to you, without doubt or hesitation. One ruin among the rest has a superior claim to our at-

tention, and, in a great measure, pleads our excuse for yielding such easy belief to the suspicious authority that stamps it with a name : Here, we are told, Cicero had his academy, where he penned some of his most admirable productions : It is at least a pleasing illusion to fancy that we are treading ground on which that great man took his solitary walks, and mused on the falling fortunes of Rome, or the most sublime points of morals and metaphysics\*.

After many hours spent in a manner most satisfactory to my curiosity, I closed the agreeable tour of the day with a moonlight walk to Puzzuoli. The air was mildly agitated by the wind from the land, which after sunset always succeeds the sea-breeze ; the waves dashed gently against the ruined edifices that impede their progress† ; the reflection of the moon, and some

\* From Pliny's topography it is probable that it stood on a spot covered by the eruption of 1538.

† These buildings, which for so many ages have withstood the daily assaults of a boisterous element, owe their durability

some vessels under sail, enlivened the marine prospect, and from the gardens of the vale were wafted the most delicious perfumes.

## SECTION VII.

**P**UZZUOLI\* is pleasantly and advantageously situated for trade; but the metropolis absorbs almost every branch of it. In a very remote age, the Cumeans made it their durability to the cement with which their parts are united; the principal ingredient is a fine volcanical sand, called Puzzolana, that acquires strength and hardness by lying under water; it consists of various metallic, stony, and earthy particles, calcined and triturated in the central furnaces, and is found both in the neighbourhood of Puzzuoli and in that of Rome.

\* Padre Paoli, in his *Anti Chita di Puzzuoli*, gives a coin of this town, which I believe to be no more than a very common one of Naples, a little altered and ill-read.—Anciently Puteoli in Latin, *Πυτταλία* in Greek.

arsenal

arsenal and dockyard; and to this naval establishment gave the sublime appellation of *Dicæarchia*, or *Just Power*: This name indicates, that they pursued, or wished to be thought to pursue, a line of conduct in commercial transactions, which it would be happy for mankind all maritime powers would adopt. The Romans were well aware of the utility of this port, and took great pains to improve its natural advantages. Nothing remains of their works, but a line of piers, built to break the force of a rolling sea: they are vulgarly called The Bridge of Caligula, because that madman is said to have marched in triumph from Puzzuoli to Baia on a bridge; but his was a bridge of boats.

The ruins of its ancient edifices are widely spread along the adjacent hills and shores. An amphitheatre still exists entire in most of its parts; and the temple of Serapis offers many curious subjects of observation; half of its buildings are still buried under the earth thrown upon it by volcanical commotions, or accumulated



lated by the crumbings of the hill; the inclosure is square, environed with buildings for priests, and baths for votaries: in the centre remains a circular platform, with four flights of steps up to it, vases for fire, a central altar, rings for victims, and other appendages of sacrifice, entire and not displaced; but the columns that upheld its roof have been removed to the new palace of Caserta. Behind this round place of worship, stand three pillars, without capitals, part of the pronaos of a large temple; they are of cipolline marble, and at the middle of their height are full of holes eaten in them by the file-fish\*. Various unsatisfactory conjectures have been formed in order to account for these upright shafts being corroded only in that middle part, while the top and bottom were not attacked—The most reasonable appears to be, that, when the sea flowed so much higher than it does at present, these columns were half covered with sand; and

\* *Pholas dactylus*. Lin.

the

the upper part being above the level of the water, the fish could only attack the small portion that was immersed in the very shallow water. The present city contains near ten thousand inhabitants, and occupies a small peninsula; the cathedral was a Pagan temple, dedicated to the divinities that presided over commerce and navigation.

After examining the antiquities within the town, I rambled up the hills, amidst piles of bricks, which, however ruinous they may be, are all distinguished in the descriptions of Puzzuoli by peculiar appellations, and consecrated to Neptune, Diana, or some other deity; fortuitous dedications, originating in the caprice of the first antiquaries that accompanied strangers when these fragments became objects of curiosity; the name applied at random by ignorant guides has acquired a sanction by time, and is now repeated as authentic. Among these relicks of ancient grandeur none deserve more attention than the Campanian way, paved with

with lava, and lined on each side with venerable towers, the repositories of the dead, which are richly adorned with stucco in the inside. This road was made in a most solid expensive manner by order of Domitian, and is frequently the subject of encomium in the poems of Statius.

Pursuing the path that leads towards Naples, I arrived at a convent of Capuchin Friars, which commands so fine a prospect, that many painters have chosen it as a station for delineating the bay. Saint Januarius is supposed to have compleated his martyrdom on this spot, by the axe, after facing the wild beasts of the amphitheatre with impunity. He was bishop of Beneventum in the third century; but did not supersede Saint Asprenius in the patronage of Naples till eleven hundred years after his death.

The cistern that contains water for the use of this convent is a basin supported solely by one column; it was thus contrived clear of all contact with the walls of the cellar, from a discovery

covery being made that poisonous vapours transpired through the ground, and contaminated the water in the common reservoirs.

I ascended from hence to the Solfatara, a half-extinct volcano, styled by the ancients The Court of Vulcan; its form is circular; hills of moderate elevation environ it; and, notwithstanding the vicinity of the fire, vines and fruit trees grow very well on the outer declivity. The floor of the crater is white as chalk, composed of various materials, which, from the continued action of acids that rise with the steam, have been converted into a marley clay, perhaps their original state before they were acted upon by fire. Tiles placed over vent-holes, and serving as retorts, collect condensed alum, sal ammoniac, and sulphur; the vapour is very hot, and discolours paper and metals. The ground quaked and resounded under the pressure of my feet; and, by laying my ear close to it, I distinguished the bubbling and hissing of boiling water; yet upon part of this crust or floor a



wood of chefnut trees flourishes in perfect health, and a variety of shrubs shoot up along the banks, wherever they find level ground to strike root into, and are out of the reach of the blasting smoke. These hidden waters have their issue on the north side of the mountain, where, in a dark valley, a foetid burning stream breaks out, and pursues its course among rocks and bushes to the lake of Agnano.

The Solfatara has not emitted flames within the memory of man; but wet weather encreases the quantity of its smoke.

From this point I turned to the king's park at Astruni, which has been formed by running a wall round the edge of a volcanical basin four miles and a half in circumference. The outer slope is very completely cultivated; the inside is filled with a forest of noble timber. In the centre, a large knoll rises crowned with majestic trees, and round it winds a narrow valley in which are several ponds. In cool weather the rides in this deep glen are delightful; but

as

as no breeze can break through such thick groves, or penetrate into so low a situation, the heat in a summer's day is insupportable. A great number of wild boars fatten in this inclosure upon chefnuts and acorns; when these fail, food is provided, and the wild pigs run regularly to be fed: as they grow up, they become shy, and keep out of sight. The king sometimes hunts here; but the animals are too fat and cowardly to afford him as good diversion as he meets with in his other royal chases.

As soon as the queen and her attendants are placed out of all danger, behind a palisado on the middle hill, a cordon of huntsmen and peasants set out from the park wall, and, with hounds and loud cries, beat all the wood regularly as they descend; nothing can be more chearful and animating than this prelude. Thus they chase the game before them into the plain, where the king and his nobles take their stand on horse-back armed with long spears; the  
boars

boars rush down the mountain, and pass in review before the lance-men. In 1452, Alphonfus the First gave a sumptuous entertainment here to the emperor Frederick the Third; thousands of hunters drove the game to be killed before the royal pavillion, while viands of all sorts and streams of wine regaled a crowd of sixty-thousand spectators.

I now passed down to the lake of Agnano, which exhibits trim elegance of landscape, without any of the bold features of wild nature; its waters are unfavourable to fish, being covered in many places with sulphureous slime; all the flax that is gathered in the vicinage of Naples is brought to soak in this pool, under a weight of stones, till it be sufficiently soft for beating; a putrid smell, occasioned by its fermentation, increases the natural unwholesomeness of the air, and is often sensibly felt even in the city of Naples; by order of the police, no steeped flax can be carried through the streets except in the night-time, and even then the

effluvia are so strong that I have sometimes been waked by them: the flax produced near the lake is in the highest estimation. These waters are said to bubble incessantly from the fixed air forcing its way through them; but I could discern another cause of this bubbling in the continual leaping up of a large shoal of tadpoles, whose motions were exceedingly rapid and uninterrupted.

On the verge of this lake are the sweating stores of San Germano, much frequented in summer, and the celebrated grotta Del Cane, where a damp arises a little above the ground fatal to any animal, if its organs of respiration be immersed in it; it is usual to try the experiment upon dogs; which, after lying on the floor like a lifeless lump, recover by being thrown into the water.

## SECTION



## SECTION VIII.

**T**HE ride from hence towards Naples is through a fertile vale, where lofty poplars, hung with vines, overshadow tillage land, that teems annually with repeated harvests : the scarlet bloom of the pomegranate, glowing amidst the many-tinted greens of the hedges, gives a surprizing life to the confined prospect.

I traversed the grove to the sea-shore, and there taking boat proceeded through the narrow channel of the Lazaretto to Nisida, an island belonging to the Marquis Petroni, to whom it yields about seven hundred crowns a year. The number of its inhabitants is small, its produce oil. It abounds with rabbits, and large black snakes, which darting across our path as we disturbed their slumbers, kept my bare-footed guide in continual terror—they appeared to me timid and harmless.

The baronial seat, in ruins, stands upon the highest point of the island in a most commanding situation; below is the crater of a small volcano, now a bay of the sea called Porto Pavone, which, after it had ceased to send forth flames, probably remained many ages in a state similar to that of the Solfatara; its cover next fell; its banks gave way, and the waves rushed in. Lucan \* and Statius complain of the Stygian vapours exhaled from the dark woods of Nisida. Cicero's letters † mention that Brutus spent

\* . . . Tali spiramine Nefis

Emittit Stygium nebulosis aera faxis

Antraque letiferi rabiem Typhonis anhelant.

Luc. Pharf. l. 6.

. . . . Inde malignum

Aerâ respirat pelago circumflua Nefis.

Stat. Syl. l. 2. c. 2.

. . . Sylvaque quæ Nefida coronat.

Stat. Syl. l. 3. c. 1.

† I suspect that Cicero meant the baths of Bagnuoli on the continent, near the road to Puzzuoli, and now walled up, which from their proximity to Nisida, might perhaps pass under the same denomination. At present, I believe, there are no baths on the island.

some

some time here, at baths, which were perhaps of equal efficacy with the more fashionable waters of Baiæ, and, from their retired situation, much more agreeable to a philosophic statesman. The island has suffered great defalcations since that time. The canals cut by Lucullus, and the constant beating of the waves against its rocks, which are of a friable nature, first detached it from the shore, and then gradually reduced it to its present small dimensions; the ridge of rocks whereon the houses for performing quarantine are built, and the shallows that run across the channel, plainly indicate its ancient junction with the continent. On the other side the depth of water is very considerable. From hence I passed over to the point of Posilipo, a lofty cape of perpendicular rocks, in which deep caverns are hollowed; the inexhaustible quarries that supply the country with stone for building. The beautiful bay of Naples now began to open upon us as we glided between the promontory, and the shelf of La Gaiola; but still

we remained in full view of the noble gulf of Baia. Some vaults and walls along the shore have the honour of bearing the name of Virgil's school; in which, as my Cicerone told me, that celebrated bard read lectures on poetry. The vulgar imagine him to have been a necromancer, and the prime minister of an emperor; an opinion of ancient date in the country. Abate Aleffandro, who, about three hundred years ago, wrote an account of his native city, says, that Augustus made Virgil lord of Naples. These walls are probably remains of the villa of Lucullus; adjoining to them is a hermitage, and a stone-statue of St. Francis; and over the sea hangs a basket, into which passengers and fishermen throw their charity, towards the maintenance of the hermit and his lamp.

We moved on gently under a bold variegated shore; grand and almost magic prospects disclosed themselves to the eye in pleasing gradation, as we advanced round each romantic projection of the coast; the ruins of a palace are majestically



majestically placed on the water-edge. It was begun by Donna Anna Caraffa, wife of the duke of Medina de las Torres, viceroy of Naples in 1638. She was the greatest heiress in the kingdom; but dying without issue, her estates escheated to the crown, and this edifice remained unfinished. Not far from hence begins a paved terrace, secured from the impetuosity of winds and waves by a parapet and immense heaps of broken lava. This work was undertaken by his present catholic majesty, and was intended to be continued as far as a point on the coast where the promontory sinks very low in the middle. It would there have been easy to carry a road, with a moderate ascent, into the Foro di Puzzuoli; his departure put a stop to the project. I have often reflected with admiration on the many works the king of Spain has undertaken and compleated for the convenience of his subjects, or the honour of the nation; few princes will leave behind them so many or such mighty monuments of their

taste and spirit : some of these monuments will, no doubt, eternize his memory, and remain as models of grandeur and solidity to posterity, in the same manner as the ruins of Roman structures have served to instruct us in the principles of true taste. That the powerful monarch of Spain and the Indies, should erect palaces and arsenals, build stupendous bridges, carry magnificent roads through his realm, and encourage arts of all denominations, does not surprise us; the greatness of his means diminishes our wonder; but what must we think of the œconomy, liberality, and perseverance, of Charles the Third, who, being as yet sovereign only of one portion of the Spanish monarchy, planned and executed the noble range of buildings at Caserta, the palaces of Capodimonte and Portici, the general hospital, the aqueduct of Caserta, penetrated into the long hidden cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii, and formed the museum of Portici?

• I landed

I landed at the church of la Mergellina, founded by James Sannazar : it is not usual for poets to leave wealth enough for such endowments, and monks are seldom beholden to men of wit and genius for their riches and comforts. The bard's body lies behind the altar under a monument very profanely adorned with heathen gods and satyrs, in allusion to the subjects of his different poems. To save appearances, the names of David and Judith are written on the pedestals of the statues of Apollo and Minerva. Sannazar ranks high in my esteem as a patriot and as a friend ; men of letters have often been taxed with a versatility of principle which leads them too easily to abandon the unfortunate, and turn their homage towards the rising power. This poet, at least, was above the temptation ; his works breathe a spirit of generous attachment to his benefactors, the ill-fated princes of Arragon : while Jovius Pontanus, the secretary and confidant of Alphonfus and Ferdinand, was pronouncing an adulatory harangue  
before

before the triumphant conqueror Charles the Eighth, king of France, Sannazar was giving the most undoubted proofs of his gratitude, by selling his estate to supply the exigencies of his friend and patron, Frederick the Second; he became the voluntary companion of his exile; shared with him the weight of woe, and, with persevering tenderness, administered comfort to his desponding soul, till death kindly released the wretched prince from sorrows he had not merited. Then Sannazar returned to Naples, and spent the remainder of his life in literary occupations and the pleasures of society, possessed of the love and esteem of all ranks of citizens. His reputation was so well established, that he was chosen by the pope to be the poetical champion of Christianity. The clouds of barbarism, which for many ages had hidden true classical learning from the view of studious men, were but recently dispelled; and the Italians, naturally impetuous in every pursuit that warms their imagination, were so enraptured with



with its beauties, as to be apparently on the point of relapsing into the religion of their darling authors; legends and miracles of saints were at the eve of being supplanted by classic mythology and poetical prodigies; the veneration for Virgil in particular rose to a pitch that alarmed the clergy, and called upon the sovereign pontiff to step forward and interpose his authority, ere an attempt should be made to metamorphose the vicar of Christ into the flamen of Jupiter. In order, therefore, to draw off the attention of students, and wean the schools from poems of such dangerous tendency, Sannazar and Mark Jerome Vida were commissioned to compose verses upon Christian subjects, in such close imitation of the Mantuan bard that they might in time slide imperceptibly into his place. The latter of these poets produced the *Christias*, an epic poem; and Sannazar wrote one upon the Incarnation, in which he has copied Virgil's style with great success, but introduced such a set of Pagan deities into this holy

holy subject, that one might almost suspect he meant to hold out a lure to the deserters, and propose a kind of coalition; the charms of his poetry checked the progress of the evil, or rather some more powerful motives of interest and safety operated on the minds of the Italian literati; the gods of Paganism were again rejected, and the learned continued to profess the faith of Christ; if any of them swerved from the right line of belief, it was not to revert to Polytheism; but to wander into the wide field of utter incredulity.

Sannazar has been censured for making the sea and its shores the scene of his eclogues: but whoever condemns his piscatory idyls, merely as such, must derive his dislike from his own familiarity with the boisterous gloomy aspect of our northern ocean, and the process of a whale fishery: he would be more indulgent to the author, were he acquainted with the glassy bays of the Neapolitan sea; where a smooth azure surface reflects large masses of  
super-

superimpending rocks, richly crowned with groves that spread their boughs and roots in that wild majestic style so admirably touched by Salvator Rosa. It was in these bays that Claude and Poussin imbibed their ideas of landscape; and surely scenes that employed the pencil of such masters, cannot be deemed unworthy of a poet's pen. The operations that attend fishing in the Mediterranean are far from unpleasant to the sight or the imagination; and besides, if we discard all poetical glosses, a handsome fisherman, though soiled with scales of fish and salt-water, is at least as sweet a swain for a nymph to sigh for as a tender of sheep or goats, animals not remarkable for agreeable odours. Those poems of Sannazar always afford me great pleasure in the perusal, as they trace a most lively description of nature, without running into the threadbare similes and metaphors, with which all bucolic poetry has been patched up since the days of Theocritus.

The

The terrace of Sannazar's church is the best point for taking a comprehensive view of Naples, on the side of Chiaia; a range of showy houses, above a mile in length, follows the semi-circular form of the bay, and terminates in the buildings that crown the bold rocks of Pizzofalcone, and in the clustered towers of the Castel dell' Uovo. The ridge of hills that backs this suburb is beautifully chequered with houses and spreading pines, and the line of its horizon happily broken by cypresses and villas of various architecture; flat roofs, battlements, and porticos, have a much more agreeable effect than our northern habitations encumbered with tiles and chimneys. Vesuvius peeps over the promontory, and marks the situation of the farther bay. No country I ever visited exhibits so rich and gay a prospect; for although Genoa displays a grand picture of sea, shipping, and palaces, its buildings are too much squeezed together, and the dark naked rocks behind them press too closely upon the fore-ground. The  
quay



quay of Bordeaux is regular and well-built, and the Garonne is a noble river, but, the country being quite flat, something is wanting to bring the picture forward. The Palazzata of Messina, though unfinished, presents a most majestic front, the walk before it is spacious, the port nobly extensive; but the back-ground is too rugged, and wants that elegance of slope, that harmony, that fine wavy outline, so pleasingly drawn by the Neapolitan hills. As I know Constantinople only through the fallacious medium of paintings, I cannot bring it into comparison.

My next station was at the church of Piedigrotta, famous for an image of the Madonna, whither, on the 8th of September, the king comes in solemn procession escorted by his whole court, and almost every inhabitant of Naples and its environs. The royal galleys are drawn up near the shore, and salute the pomp as it passes. In the late reign, a Turkish ambassador was much struck with the magnificence and solemnity

solemnity of this ceremony, till chance directing his eyes to the string of ladies of the bed-chamber that followed the queen, he could not refrain from expressing his astonishment that so young and rich a monarch should keep so ill-composed a harem.

Piedigrotta, and indeed the whole suburb of Chiaia, owe their prosperity to the ingenuity of the Jesuits, who perceiving the delight Don Pedro de Toledo took in this pleasant situation, and being aware of the advantages their society would reap from his protection, brought to light an old picture, which they speedily found out to be miraculous; votaries in this country are soon assembled, and therefore Piedigrotta became almost in an instant a sanctuary of high repute. The viceroy contributed largely to its embellishment; the nobility mimicked their chief; Chiaia became a fashionable residence; buildings sprang up along the strand, as if by enchantment; and in the course of a few years this noble suburb was formed and inhabited.

Here

Here I turned off to the left, along the Puzzuoli road; and came to the grotto that pierces through the promontory of Posilipo, in a direct but ascending line from east to west: it is cut in the tufo stone, is arched, and receives light from the two mouths, and some diagonal apertures in the roof; it is eighty-nine feet high in the most elevated part, not rising in the lowest above twenty-four; in length exactly two thousand four hundred and fourteen feet; in breadth twenty-two. The dust is here intolerable \* in summer, and the scantiness of light at all times distressing; for that which is admitted through the openings abovementioned, and the feeble glimmerings of a lamp burning before a picture in the middle, are no security against the danger of being run over, crushed against the wall, or at least hurt by the faggots, which asses are continually bringing from the woods.

\* This nuisance is increased every time the king passes through, as the road is then strewed with a fresh covering of sand.

I never could accustom myself perfectly to this subterraneous road ; but with hasty steps sought to leave it as the seat of noise, gloom, dust, and unwholesome damps : at the same time wondering how passengers could venture into such a place at all hours, singly or in company, without any guard to prevent assaults, or sufficient light to detect a lurking assassin.—Were a similar thoroughfare necessary near any other capital, it would require the constant exertion of the magistracy to preserve the lives and fortunes of the inhabitants ; near London none but a madman would venture into it. It is certainly a matter of surprize to find this security in a country so ill provided with officers of police ; it reflects honour upon the national character, and indeed it behoves me to give testimony in its favour, as I never met with an insult, nor saw any reason to expect one, during my long abode among the Neapolitans, or in my innumerable rides and walks through many parts of the kingdom.

Opinions



Opinions vary concerning the first openers of the grotto. This kind of rocky substance is perforated with so much ease, and the custom of carrying on subterraneous galleries seems to have prevailed at so very early a period of society, that some authors have ascribed the work to the giants or the Cimmerians, who were wont to make caves their place of residence, as well as the repository of their plunder. Others assert it to have been done by Cocceius, an architect of the Augustan age\*. From Seneca's expressions, complaining of its inconveniences, we gather that it was then open only for foot pas-

\* It arises from a misconception of a passage in Strabo.

“ τῇ Κοκκαίῳ τε ποιήσαντος διώρυγαν ἐκείνην τε καὶ ἐπὶ Νίαν πόλιν ἐκ Δικαρχαίας ἐπὶ ταῖς Βαίαις. Cocceius who made that passage, and another through the *New Town* from Puzzuoli to Baïæ.” This grotto of Cocceius probably ran through the hill above Nero's baths. Strabo mentions the grotto of Posilipo, without saying a word of Cocceius, and also informs us there was a new town near Baïæ. The similitude of the words Νίαν πόλιν and Νεάπολιν, has caused it to be confounded with Naples.

fengers; Alphonfus the First widened it for carriages; and fince his reign it has been confiderably heightened and levelled.

Above the eastern entrance, on the very brink of a precipice, a very ruinous vaulted building is fhewn as the tomb of Virgil; but very inconclufive are the arguments brought to prove that his afhes were depofited in this fepulchre. The bay-tree is fo common a plant in the vineyards and gardens of Naples, that the circumftance of its growing upon the roof can add but little weight to the opinion.

Having walked through the grotto, I followed the left-hand path, and gained the fummit of Pofilipo by a rugged and precipitate afcent; I wandered with great fatisfaction along the heights, enjoying alternate views of the Baian and Neapolitan bays. The airinefs and retirednefs of this ridge of fertile hills well entitle it to its Greek denomination of *grief-appeafing* \*. At the Villa Mazza are the remains of Pollio's fifh-

\* Πανσιλητος.

ponds,

ponds, so often mentioned in the works of ancient writers; the expence he was at in embellishing them; the extravagant passion he had for his fish, which by care and feeding grew to a remarkable size; the cruel food with which he supplied them, and the rebuke he met with from Augustus, in whose presence he had ordered a slave to be thrown into the pond for a trivial offence, are circumstances that have rendered these reservoirs famous.

Continuing my walk towards the north, through a mountainous woody country, I arrived at length at the convent of Camaldoli, where my horses met me. This is the highest situation among the mountains that shelter the Neapolitan bays on the northern side. Scarcely any part of the country or gulf is hidden from this elevated point; the sea-view is sublime; the land one most beautiful; the woodlands and cultivated grounds are intermingled in a most pleasing variety. Towards the north-west lies a very celebrated track of country, called the

Quarto, formerly known by the appellation of Campus Leborinus. From its astonishing fertility it became famous, and by some authors is thought to have given the name of Terra di Lavoro to the province of Campania.

I returned through forests of chesnut trees, by a romantic path bordered with many sorts of shrubs and flowers, sometimes confined between broken cliffs and woody hills, sometimes winding over high ridges open to a noble range of prospect. In this pleasing vicissitude of objects I continued my journey till I fell-in with the road that leads along Posilipo to the upper part of Naples. Houses and vineyards now obstructed my view till I reached the glacis of the castle of Saint Elmo, where a wonderful scene suddenly displayed itself. The whole city and suburbs, with every object that hitherto had partially engaged my attention, were now brought under my inspection in one collective picture.



## SECTION IX.

AS from an advanced post, I here reconnoitred all the quarters of Naples, and formed an exact idea of its general outline as well as its particular situations. The sea before it is scalloped into two semi-circles divided by a promontory, and imitating the Arabic figure of three. The promontory runs out from the hill of Saint Elmo, sinking gradually towards the Castel dell' Uovo with a gentle curve. The eastern bay does not approach so near to the hills as that of Chiaia, but leaves a capacious vale for the city and suburbs, which extend very irregularly over the hills, and run up several narrow dales. On this account it is difficult to obtain the just dimensions of Naples. King Roger caused it to be measured, and found it to be two miles and six furlongs in circumference, but it was then only upon a footing with

many other cities of his dominions, and not the metropolis. Another measurement was taken in 1500, which amounted to nine miles in circumference. Its walls are no longer of any real defence, and of course the safety of Naples depends upon the force of its armies. To repel hostile attempts by sea, which, from its situation, maritime powers might be tempted to make, it has to the west the Castel dell' Uovo, a confused pile of ancient buildings, and some modern batteries; the rock this fortress stands upon was originally called Megara, then Lucullanum, and must have been considered early as a place of strength, for Romulus Augustulus, the last Roman emperor of the west, was shut up here in 475. His father, Orestes, had invested him with the imperial purple; but Odoacer, king of the Heruli, defeated his army, and put an end to the empire. Hither also the son of king Manfred was transferred from Puglia, and lingered out a tedious life of misery. Along the line of the shore towards the east are some  
bat-

batteries on the points of land, the bastions of the arsenal, and above it the lofty wall of the Castel Nuovo erected by Charles the First. Its inner gate is decorated with a triumphal arch raised in honour of Alphonfus the Magnificent, a work of great effect, though not perfectly correct in taste and architecture. This fortress has usually been the refuge of the sovereigns and viceroys in all civil wars and tumults, and for that reason they have long fixed their residence near its walls. A block-house and batteries defend the mouth of the harbour, and at the eastern extremity of the town is the Torrione del Carmine, better known by the figure it made in the rebellion of 1647, than by its extent or military strength. The castle of Saint Elmo, where I stood to view the city, commands Naples in every direction, and is in reality calculated rather to annoy and awe the citizens, than to defend them from foreign invaders. King Robert first saw the propriety of fortifying this post, and the emperor Charles the Fifth reduced the old works to a regular pentagonal form.

The

The dockyard and magazines for the gallies are spacious ; the harbour, where ships of war and merchantmen lie, rather too confined : it is entirely the work of art, being formed by the projection of a crooked mole first laid by Charles the Second, and after many additions compleated by the present king of Spain. A lofty pharos points out the entrance of the harbour in the night ; but as the hill behind rises very high, these lights are easily confounded with those of the town.

Naples contains some fine squares and large streets ; of the former the Largo Castello and Spirito Santo are the most extensive. Toledo is the principal among the latter, inferior to few in Europe, for length and buildings. In the heart of the city the streets are narrow, and, on account of the great elevation of the houses, gloomy and close ; they are paved with square stones of dark-coloured lava, dug out of quarries or rather stagnated torrents formerly vomited by Vesuvius or the Solfatara. It is said that this  
mat-



matter must be many centuries old ere it acquire a sufficient degree of hardness for the purpose of paving; but I am inclined to believe it very soon becomes as compact as it ever will be; paving stones are contracted for at two carlini a piece, and, in great thoroughfares, must be renewed in less than three years.

All parts of Naples are copiously supplied with water by an ancient aqueduct, which has more than once over-balanced its services, by affording a passage for besiegers to enter the city: through it Belisarius introduced soldiers that surprised the Gothic garrison; Alphonfus the First repeated the stratagem with success. Many fountains retail the supply, some few of which are decorated in a good style.

The Neapolitan architects are too lavish of ornament, and too frequently run into a false and barbarous taste: the edifices of Rome have in general more grandeur and chastity of style, except those which have been executed upon the plans of Borromini and his scholars; they  
indeed

indeed exceed in wanton violation of propriety all the flights of Gothic architecture. Most of the churches of Naples are crowned with cupolas; a few slender steeples break the line, and add variety to the picture; but there is a want of some venerable pile to tower above the rest: the cathedral is not sufficiently pre-eminent. I scarcely know a church without some good paintings, but very few in which the architect has shewn a pure noble taste. Two columns of a temple dedicated to the Dioscuri and the city of Naples, are the only remarkable monuments of ancient architecture remaining. The portico to which they belonged was overturned by an earthquake in 1688; they stand before the door of a church, consecrated to St. Peter and Paul. This temple was erected by Tiberius Julius Tarsus, and Pelago the freedman of Augustus; the apostles, who were united in their mission and martyrdom, have been substituted for the twin brothers Castor and Pollux. Santa Chiara, a rich monastery of noble dames, founded by  
king

king Robert, and the place of sepulture for the royal family, has a church repaired and painted by Conca in so gay and airy a style, that it exhibits more of the elegance of a ball-room than of the awful solemnity of a temple. The chancel of Saint Philip Neri is the best sample of ecclesiastical architecture in Naples: large columns of antique granite divide it from the isles in a most majestic manner, though some of the usual proportions are not critically observed. The Carthusian convent of Saint Martin, adjoining to the castle of Saint Elmo, is, I believe, the best situated monastery in Europe; every thing appertaining to it corresponds with the sublimity of the view; immense ranges of buildings, a stately church, superb halls, and a noble collection of pictures. To support this great establishment, and a large family of ascetic members, that neither beg nor earn their livelihood, the society enjoys a most princely income; the overplus of it is employed in the pernicious charity of feeding beggars, and the  
rational

rational one of portioning out the female relations of the monks ; it is reported, that government intends shortly to take upon itself the charge of appropriating this balance. The relics of St. Januarius form the principal boast of the cathedral. The Carmine calls to mind the bloody catastrophe of those royal youths Conradine and Frederick of Austria, butchered before its door ; whenever I traversed that square, my heart yearned at the idea of their premature fate, and at the deep distress of Conradine's mother, who, landing on the beach with her son's ransom, found only a lifeless trunk to redeem from the fangs of his barbarous conqueror. In the cloyster of the Carmine, Massaniello was murdered by the companions of his revolt, a victim to his want of conduct.

The sacred edifices of Naples abound with sepulchral monuments of distinguished personages ; the chapel of the San Severo family exhibits many very extraordinary statues ; the art with which the sculptor has surmounted the  
dif-



difficulty of representing human bodies wrapped up in cloths, or entangled in the meshes of a net, is truly wonderful ; but the piece of statuary which appeared in my eyes to possess the most real merit, is a Christ in the shroud, by San Martino, a living Neapolitan artist ; undoubtedly a fine performance.

The dwellings of the nobility are grand. In 1597, when Morrison travelled, there was no glass in any windows at Naples, nor is it above forty years since the use of glass became common. While the Neapolitans languished under the oppressive and almost hostile government of a viceroy, they seem to have felt little for the honour of their country ; the comforts of life were imperfectly known, and all emulation appeared dead among them ; the revival of elegant arts, the introduction of numberless improvements in public and private life, the adorning of the city, and a more convenient mode of furnishing their dwellings, all date from the æra of the conquest of Naples by Don

Carlos.—

Carlos.—A sovereign of their own then came to reside among them, they felt once more that they were a nation, and had a glory and interests worth consulting.

The royal palace begun in 1600 by the count of Lemos, after the design of Fontana, presents a very handsome front, a staircase in the noblest proportions, and apartments suitable to the rank of the inhabitants; these rooms have, however, lost some of their splendour, by the removal of the Farnesian collection of pictures; those valuable paintings are now shewn at Capodimonte, a palace erected upon the hills to the north of the city by the king of Spain, but left unfinished from the difficulty of procuring water; the ground upon which it stands is undermined in various and numberless directions; these caverns were either left in the original formation of the hill, and chiselled into shape by the hand of man, or were quarries gradually extended as the materials were wanted for building; though we are not certain in what manner they were

exca-

excavated, we know that they long served both Heathens and Christians as repositories of the dead ; they surpass the catacombs of Rome in extent, but for many ages have seldom been used for funeral purposes ; similar vaults under the churches in the town, being more at hand, are now the usual places of burial. It is a custom here, on All Souls day, to throw open the charnel-houses, lighted up with torches, and decked out with all the flowery pageantry of May-day ; crowds follow crowds through these vaults to behold the coffins, nay, the bodies of their friends and relations ; the floors are divided into beds, like a garden, and under these heaps of earth the corpses are laid in regular succession ; the place is perfectly dry, for the soil is rather a pounded stone than earth, and parches up the flesh compleatly in a twelvemonth ; when that period is elapsed, the body is taken up, drest in a religious habit, and fixed like a statue in a niche ; many retain a horrid resemblance to what they were when animated, and some shew strong

marks of agony in their distorted features. They are much better preserved than the mummies of Toulouse, which pass for such singular curiosities.

The Albergo de Poveri, intended as a refuge for the poor from all parts of the kingdom, is an extensive hospital, but, like most works planned upon a scale that strains the sinews of the public revenue, remains unfinished.

The theatre of San Carlo is one of the most capacious in the world, and when illuminated, the most magnificent.

The Studii is a showy edifice decorated with ancient statues brought from Cumar. There is a plan under consideration at court, for removing the contents of the museum hither from Portici, in order to place that inestimable collection at a greater distance from Vesuvius; the day may otherwise come when another stream of fire shall bury these treasures again for ages. But is Naples itself a place of security? Its safety depends upon the wind that blows during an eruption;



if that should happen to direct the ashes to the north-west, Naples would be exposed to the fate of Pompeii; besides, its foundations rest on hollow ground, and earthquakes may destroy the pillars that support them; were I admitted to council on the occasion, I should prefer a removal to Caserta, but think it still more advisable to leave the antiquities where they are. They would suffer so much damage and derangement in the package, and remain for so many years unopened and unclassified, that the present generation of learned and curious persons would probably never be gratified with a sight of them.

## SECTION X.

**T**HE ancient palace of the sovereigns, near the Capuan gate, is now occupied by the courts of law, and its cellars transformed into dungeons for malefactors. One room is set apart for the drawing of the lottery, an institution

tution of great emolument to the king, but of still more essential detriment to the morals and fortunes of his subjects; necessity is the plea for establishing so pernicious an allurements to gambling, because the lotteries set up at Genoa and elsewhere would infallibly draw a great deal of money out of the country, if no such thing existed at Naples; and if the Neapolitans now are dupes, at least their own exchequer benefits by their folly. But this is fallacious reasoning; for the daily labourer, the artisan and the menial servant could not squander away their pittance at a lottery-office out of the kingdom: the distance and absence of the temptation from their eyes would eradicate the vice. As things now stand, the fury with which they pursue the game is inconceivable to every one who is not acquainted with their impetuosity of character; cloaths, furniture, victuals, are pawned, robberies committed, and trusts betrayed, in order to raise a stake for the lotto, which, next to St. Gennaro, excites the most tem-

tempestuous agitations in the soul of a Lazzarone. On a day of drawing, the crowd and tumult in the hall are prodigious; ragged fellows are seen pressing up to the table, in hopes of being allowed to shake the precious box that contains the ninety fatal numbers. As the five winning lots come up, it is highly entertaining to observe the fierce expressions of joy or disappointment that strain or relax the features of each eager face, according as the number tallies with the combinations upon which the owner has betted his money. Hogarth should have visited Naples, to have beheld the very sublime of caricature; in our phlegmatic countenances he saw only feeble specimens and demi characters.

The administration of criminal justice is entrusted to the court of Vicaria, originally instituted by Charles duke of Calabria, who acted as regent during the imprisonment of his father Charles the Second. Its chief judge is always a nobleman of high rank; this important office is now held by the duke of St. Nicolo, a per-

son of great learning and acquirements. He sits as umpire in all disputes between the nobles and the plebeians, compromises family-quarrels, and adjusts differences; when he acts in his judicial capacity, he calls in the assistance of his assessors, men learned in the law.

In a former part of this work I passed some strictures upon the mode of administering justice at Naples, and pointed out the necessity of government's taking the matter into serious consideration. Many and various are the causes which have co-operated in perplexing judicial proceedings, in corrupting the springs of justice, and in weakening the legal powers that ought to enforce due observation of the laws, and punish those that transgress them: magistrates deprived of sufficient authority for the support of their jurisdiction are soon brought to think it absurd to adhere strictly to their duty, and then self-interest steps in with a legion of temptations and evil consequences. The great and more obvious causes of this vice are to be discovered



covered in the numberless revolutions that have disturbed the constitution of the realm, in the struggles between the crown and its great vassals, in the infirm administration of viceroys, and in the neglect with which the Spanish monarchs, harrassed with difficulties at home, treated their distant possessions. Other causes, no less efficient, though less apparent, may be added, such as conflicts of jurisdiction, privileges, and exemptions originating in ancient grants or usurpations, and a mixture of laws of different conquerors. It is a very difficult and arduous task, even for a despotic prince to eradicate such inveterate abuses in a summary hasty manner, and to raise up suddenly a more perfect system of judicature for people accustomed, through a long line of generations, to laws diametrically contrary to the new regulations; the very inconveniences of the old code are consecrated by time and habit. The debased slaves hug the chain that galls them, and will long curse the patriotic hand that breaks their fetters.

A gradual reform alone is to be recommended, and I make no doubt but it has been determined upon, and will be carried into execution with all proper dispatch, by the royal branch of Bourbon now firmly settled on the throne of the Two Sicilies. The progress of such a change must of course be slow, and its effects long unobserved; the hand that performs the cure must be light and cautious, and no amputation made, without preparing a healing ointment to apply to the wound before it can rankle.

Naples is divided, as to its municipal policy, into six seggii or wards, five of which are governed by a committee of nobles; the last belongs exclusively to the plebeians, who are distributed into twenty-nine ottine or quarters, under the direction of an eletto or mayor with his assistants. These wards meet in open porticos that alternately enjoy the honour of being the theatre, whereon the liquefaction of Saint Januarius's blood is exhibited.

These

These feggii have succeeded to the phratræ into which Naples was divided in very ancient times, while governed by its own Greek laws. A phratræ consisted of thirty families, each of which had its temple or parochial place of worship. A feggio was originally composed of municipal magistrates only, who assembled to settle the proportion each district was to bear of the public taxes; but when the general parliaments of the nation were suffered to fall into disuse\*, greater influence was insensibly imparted to the feggii by the kings, and very essential privileges and powers conferred upon their members. These prerogatives seem to have been intended as a decoy, to draw the fierce vassal out of his den, and soften his independent spirit in the gentle atmosphere of courts

\* Parliaments or general assemblies of feudatories and free burghers have not been held since the beginning of the administration of the Marquis Tanucci. The king has therefore no free gifts, but imposes what taxes and duties he chooses.

and

and cities. The most powerful barons found it expedient to have their names enrolled in a seggio, not to be excluded from a vote in the distribution and administration of the general imposts; but many great families long declined these advantages; some were not aggregated before this century, and others have never yet been admitted.

Before the civil wars had ruined and extinguished so many puissant families of the ancient baronage, there were not in the seggi above seventeen members that possessed castles and manors, and those were not of any great importance. In the reign of Ladislaus, twenty-two great vassals of the crown were received. Notwithstanding the powers vested in the feudatories *in capite* by grant or abuse, Giannone thinks they did not arrogate to themselves the full exercise of legal jurisdiction in their fiefs till the reign of king Robert.

Naples has neither watchmen nor lamps; but of late years darkness has been dispelled in many streets



streets by the piety of Father Rocco, a Dominican friar, who rules the mob with absolute controul; he persuades them to subscribe oil for lamps to burn before images, which he fixes up in the most convenient places, and thus turns their devotion to public account. This extraordinary man, whose manners are clownish, and address adapted to the people he governs, carries all before him with rude energy; beats the quarrelsome into peace; strips the shops, and distributes their victuals among the poor; decides petty law-suits, and suffers no appeal to lie from his sentence. The court understands his importance, and has often experienced the good effects of his mediation; though of late years an attention to the plentiful supply of cheap provisions, and a strong garrison, have kept the populace quiet, to a degree unknown in former times, yet particular circumstances may still render a Neapolitan mob formidable to government. During a late eruption of Vesuvius, the people took offence at the new theatre

theatre being more frequented than the churches, and assembled in great numbers to drive the nobility from the opera; they snatched the flambeaux from the footmen, and were proceeding tumultuously to the cathedral to fetch the head of San Gennaro, and oppose its miraculous influence to the threats of the blazing volcano: this would undoubtedly have ended in a very serious sedition, if father Rocco had not stepped forth, and after reproaching them bitterly with the affront they were about to put upon the saint by attending his relicks with torches taken from mercenary hands, ordered them all to go home and provide themselves with wax tapers; the crowd dispersed, and proper measures were taken to prevent its gathering again.

The reader must not be surprized to hear that torches should be esteemed so necessary an appendage to piety; for at Naples nothing is done in religious matters without lights of some sort. The anniversary of every saint is celebrated with fireworks, bonfires, or illuminations; and devotion

devotion in this country leads people into great expence. I have been told by a person very conversant in calculations, that the Neapolitan clergy receive as much annually for prayers said at the particular request of the devout, as the king's household costs in the same space of time. The wax and oil consumed in lamps and candles for altars and processions would, if exported, form a very beneficial article of commerce.

In funeral ceremonies, it is usual to hire clergymen, called Fratanzari; who, having no patrimony, earn as much by their fees on these occasions as pays for their ordination; but it is very common for them to dress up the vagabonds of the streets in their cloaths, and send them to sing and pray in their stead; these fellows are always attended by a friend, who holds a paper bag, into which they make the taper sweal and waste as much as possible. At the burial of an archbishop of Naples, four hundred friars attended with wax-lights; but some  
thieves

thieves let loose a mad ox among them, and in the confusion ran away with the candles. At another great funeral, a gang of rogues disguised themselves like clerks and sacristans, and demanded from each assistant his taper, which they extinguished, and carried off with the utmost hypocritical composure.

## SECTION XI.

**F**ROM the slight mention made of Naples by ancient writers, we may infer that its inhabitants long lived in obscure tranquillity, a happy though not a glorious situation; for where no complaints are made, no disturbances heard of, peace and abundance may be supposed to reign.—Great misfortunes, as often as great successes, raise nations to a rank in history that



that entitles them to the notice of posterity; victory and dominion did not, perhaps, procure to the Roman people a larger share of felicity than they would have tasted, had they remained the free but undistinguished possessors of their original confined territory; in that case their name would not have been pre-eminent in the history of the great revolutions of the world; but their blood would not have flowed in proscriptions, nor would their liberties have been trampled upon by emperors the most worthless of mankind. It is far from my intention to depreciate the value of generous ambition, and active spirit; on the contrary, I doubt whether any public prosperity can be lasting without military exertions: philosophical content and moderation may ensure to private men an uncommon proportion of that imperfect sum of happiness, which alone is within our contracted reach; but if they predominate long in national councils, will inevitably lull the state into pernicious apathy; every political body is so surrounded

rounded with rivals and enemies, and such is the necessity of motion in human affairs, that if they do not advance, they must retrograde. A people of philosophers, if such a one could be formed, must either sink rapidly into vicious indolence, ending in confusion and slavery, or very soon be reinvolved in the busy vortex of enterprize, which alone can preserve it from corruption.

Naples is fabled to owe its foundation to a syren; and idleness, that worst of syrens \*, seems to have spread an influence over this favourite city, which no length of time has been able to dispel; it has never lost the soft voluptuous character, which it may be said to have received from Parthenope its supernatural foundress. The Cumæans formed a settlement in this bay about three hundred years after the Trojan war, and called it their New Town, Neapolis; Livy is the only author that makes mention of an old

\* *Improba syren desidia.*—Hor.

one adjoining to it, which he calls Palepolis; it is a matter of very little importance to contest, whether the Cumæans erected a new city entirely from the foundations, at a small distance from the ancient city of the syren, or occupied the old tenements; in either case the former name was lost\*. Naples, thus happily situated, grew rich and populous†. It was, during a short

\* The situation of Parthenope, or Palepolis, was in all probability near Capodi Monte, as there are proofs of the sea's having retired considerably since that time.

† Nummi Neapolitani.

Ex Argento.

1. Caput muliebri diadematum inter 4 delphinos—  
Minotaurus à supervolitante victoriâ coronatus.  
NEAΠOΛITON.

2. Cap. id. absque delph.

3. Cap. id cum icunculâ ad occiput APTEMIS—Minot.  
a vict. cor. NEAΠOΛITON.

Ex Ære.

1. Caput imberbe laureatum —Lyra et fistrum NEAΠOΛITON.

short space of time, the seat of war in the days of Hannibal; and suffered some molestation during the servile war; but at almost all other periods enjoyed the most profound peace, under the powerful dominion of Rome. As its soft citizens could give no umbrage to those jealous conquerors, Naples was suffered to enjoy a shadow of liberty, live under its own municipal laws, worship its peculiar deities, and retain its original rites and language. This indulgence was purchased by a quota of ships, to be furnished when demanded; a tribute that could not be oppressive to a maritime state. Thus maintained in peace and security, Naples became the centre of polite arts, the seat of refined taste and

2. Cap. imb. laur. ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ.—Minotaurus gradiens  
à vict. superv. cor.

3. Cap. imb. laur.—Tripus ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ.

4. Cap. idem. ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ.—Anterior pars Minotauri  
superstante delphino.

5. Cap. Dianæ cum pharetrâ ad humeros—Cornucopiæ  
ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ.

luxury;



luxury, and a favourite residence of the rich and voluptuous citizens of Rome. The emperors partook of the fashionable partiality for its climate; and gave it many substantial marks of their predilection. But the rougher policy of Vespasian altered its constitution, and made it a Roman colony, which may have been a cause of animating its natural effeminacy with some degree of military spirit. I find more warlike symptoms among the Neapolitans after this period than they had ever discovered before. Upon the division of the empire, Naples was assigned to the eastern monarch; and, being connected with Greece by language and manners, long preserved its allegiance to that crown under a kind of vassalage, or subordinate republican government; it appeared rather as a more independent state after the Exarch Longinus had placed a duke at its head; a regular succession is to be traced of these magistrates, who were sometimes despotic princes; at other periods subject to the control of the municipal body.

This city suffered severely from the Saracens, who invaded Italy towards the opening of the ninth century; for such havock was made of its fighting men, that the duke was compelled to publish an invitation throughout the neighbouring states, offering wives and houses to any adventurers that would settle in the town. King Roger, after the reduction of every other place that now belongs to the kingdom of Naples, was voluntarily admitted here, and the ducal government abolished. A contemporary writer describes Naples as large and strong, defended on one side by the sea, and on the other by lofty walls, so as to be deemed impregnable by assault; these bulwarks were much damaged by the emperor Henry the Sixth; and leveled to the ground by his grandson Conrad, who dismantled the city on account of its adhering to the papal party. Frederick the Second had shewn it more favour; conscious of its advantages and importance, he intended to raise it to the dignity of a capital; and, in order to render

der it more worthy of the distinction, transferred the university of Bologna hither, embellished the city with new buildings, and repaired the old ones; the troubles which agitated every part of his reign, and perplexed all his measures, prevented him from compleating his plan. Charles the First brought it to perfection, by fixing here his royal residence and the tribunals of justice; each succeeding prince added something, and Naples soon came to vie with the first cities in Europe for beauty, wealth, and numbers; but its military strength and safety decreased as its boundaries were extended; ill-provided with fortifications and defenders, it usually threw open its gates, and received with submission whatever commander victory had crowned in the field of battle. Some exceptions are to be made; and some generals, after defeating their enemy, have met with a repulse before its walls. The viceroyalty of Moncada exhibited, in 1528, a remarkable instance in the destruction of the whole French army,

which, under Lautrec, had long and closely besieged Naples. Tumults were frequent during the administration of viceroys, arising from continual exactions, increasing taxes, scarcity of provisions, and a weak government. The grand insurrection under Massaniello wore a more dismal complexion than all the preceding disturbances; and threatened the dismembering of this valuable limb from the Spanish monarchy. Since that period, the annals of this city are barren of memorable events.

From the few hints dropped by the classic authors, we collect that the ancient Neapolitans were a race of Epicureans, of a soft indolent turn, averse to martial exercises, passionately fond of theatrical amusements and music, expert in all the refined arts that administer to the caprices of luxury, extravagant in their expressions and gestures, credulous, and dupes to superstitions of various sorts. If we make allowance for a quantity of northern blood which has joined the original Grecian stream by inter-marriages



marriages with a medley of conquering nations, and has imparted a roughness not yet worn off by the mildness of the climate, we shall find the present citizens of Naples very like the former inhabitants of their city.

Provisions are here plentiful and cheap; therefore the lower class of people work but little: their delight is to bask in the sun, and to do nothing. Persons of a middle rank pass too much of their time in coffee-houses, and places of public resort; few pursue their callings with the zeal and activity we are wont to meet with in the professional men of colder countries. Gluttony is a much more predominant vice than ebriety, of which instances are extremely rare. In the female sex, the passion for finery is almost superior to all others; and, notwithstanding any effect the genial warmth of the climate may have on the constitution of a Neapolitan woman, I doubt whether she would not nine times out of ten prefer a present to a lover; yet I apprehend chastity is not the characteristic

virtue of this place more than it is of any other populous metropolis; that furious jealousy for which the nation was so remarkable some generations ago, is almost eradicated; the breach of the conjugal vow sometimes occasions quarrels and assassinations among people of an inferior station; but the case is rare, and rivalry between lovers is more frequently productive of such scenes.

Education was not heretofore sufficiently attended to, and youthful minds, naturally warm and susceptible of every impression, were unfortunately left too much without proper guides to direct them in the paths of renown and useful learning. Few noblemen suffered their children to frequent public schools, and, under the paternal roof, young people in this soft climate are but too prone to habits of indolence and effeminacy, which grow inveterate with age. But it is probable the pains and expence government has been at in establishing public seminaries upon a proper and respectable footing,

the

the patriotic efforts of the new Academy of Sciences and Belles Lettres, and the fashion which begins to prevail among the nobility of visiting foreign countries, will speedily work the happiest effects in the improvement of a people that wants nothing but activity and a sense of its own faculties to figure among the most conspicuous nations in Christendom.

The musical school of Naples is worthy of its ancient reputation, and Nero might still be proud of the applause of a Neapolitan audience.

\* Cicero in giving an account to Marius of the sport exhibited before the Roman people, at the opening of Pompey's theatre, mentions the Oscan farces, but adds, that he need not regret being absent during the representation, as they were very bad, and he was already well acquainted with their nature, more especially as he might see similar scenes acted whenever he pleased in the Senate-house of their native

\* Præsertim cum Oscos ludos vel in senatu nostro spectare possis.

Ep. ad Famil. lib. 7, ep. 1.

city

city Arpinum\*; no doubt every debate was there attended with expressive and ludicrous gesticulations. In this art the modern Neapolitans are not inferior to their forefathers; though loud and loquacious by nature, they can, when they choose, express their thoughts by signs, shrugs, and nods; they can even hold a conversation by the simple motions of their eyes, with a degree of acuteness scarcely to be credited. They have naturally a great fund of what we call humour, and heighten it with affected clownishness and rudeness of language; their jokes are rather coarse, and their satire, though well calculated for exciting laughter, has little of that keen penetrating slyness which points the sarcasms of the more northern Italians.

Some malefactors were lately executed at Naples, three of whom, being strangers and unknown, were left all night on the gibbet; next morning they were found with hats and

\* Now Arpino, a town in the north-east corner of Terra di Lavoro, on the confines of the Ecclesiastical State.



long periwigs on their heads, and pipes of tobacco in their mouths.

I once saw a fire-work played off before a church on the festival of the patron, in which Punchinello was represented in pasteboard administering a clyster to Scaramouche; at a signal given, the instrument took fire, and both apothecary and patient blew up in a volley of crackers.

The ancient Neapolitans were more tenacious of their superstitions, and adhered to Paganism longer than any other Italians. The orders of Constantine for the destruction of Heathen temples and idols were disobeyed or eluded at Naples with a degree of obstinacy that excited the admiration of Symmachus. This writer was strongly bigoted to the ancient faith, and therefore lavish of his encomiums on this most religious city. So late as the sixth century, the history of St. Benedict mentions several temples yet remaining in the kingdom, where Heathen rites were performed, notwithstanding the almost  
universal

universal prevalence of Christianity, and the severity of the imperial edicts.

It must be acknowledged that the Neapolitans of the present time are too apt to indulge notions that may justly be taxed with superstition, and that some practices in their religious worship appear extravagant and improper to Roman Catholics of other countries; but such is the violence of their passions and the enthusiasm of their character, that it is but natural they should be easily seduced beyond the bounds of sober reason in matters of mystery and metaphysics. They balance this account by the vigorous and successful resistance they have made against every attempt to introduce the inquisition among them \*. This tribunal is certainly

\* It is remarkable that the oaths and curses, so frequent in the mouths of the vulgar, change entirely at the first step one makes out of the Roman into the Neapolitan territories. The Romans, having the fear of the inquisition before their eyes, vent their choler in obscene words, or pious ejaculations; but the swearing of the Neapolitan, who is under

tainly unnecessary here, with regard to infidels and heretics, for none exist in the country ; witches are, I believe, as rare here as elsewhere, and in that line also the holy office is not wanted : perhaps in some other of its departments, it might find victims enough to burn. In the reign of Philip the Second the Reformed doctrines had penetrated into the realm, and the number of profelytes was increasing very rapidly, when their progress was checked by the furious zeal of a baron of the house of Spinelli, who exterminated with fire and sword all his vassals that had embraced the new mode of worship, and by this bloody example retained the remainder in the Roman communion : two men were burnt at Naples, notwithstanding a tumult of the people, who dreaded the introduction of the in-  
under no such restraint, borders upon blasphemy ; when in a passion, he devotes not only himself, but the souls of all his forefathers, to eternal perdition ; nay, I remember hearing a Lazarone, in the height of his resentment against an old woman, damn even the priest that had christened her.

quisition ;

quisition; and the Protestant religion has never had any partisans since among the Neapolitans.

The Jews have often been banished, and afterwards suffered to return. Their final expulsion was at the birth of Don Philip, first male child of the king of Spain. Their despair and rage were excessive at being driven from the place of their nativity and settlement; they filled the air with lamentations and curses against the new-born prince; and, when he was known to be a perfect idiot, triumphed in what they called a judgment of God in honour of his old favourite people. Their abode was in the Giudeca, where the same rag-fair is continued by Christians, who seem to have been infected by the air of the place; for they have imbibed the spirit, and practise the tricks, of their Hebrew predecessors.

Men of observation have assured me, that within their memory a very visible diminution has taken place in the enthusiasm of the Neapolitans for Saint Januarius, and other objects of  
their



their devotion, and that the power which the ecclesiastical part of the nation had over the laical, has lost much ground since the banishment of the Jesuits; but still great is the empire which zealous or artful men. exercise over the minds of the populace, and scarcely any imposition is too gross for the multitude.

## SECTION XII.

AS soon as the autumnal rains had refreshed the earth, and restored a wholesome elasticity to the air, I ventured to make some inland journies. Caserta was the object of one excursion; it lies almost sixteen miles from the capital, at the foot of a lofty ridge of hills, the out-skirts of those mountains that cover the greatest part of the northern provinces. The country I passed through is quite level, and the fertility of its soil can alone compensate to the traveller for the exclusion of all prospect by woods of vine-bearing trees.

The

The town of new Caserta is irregularly built, and its old palace not more remarkable than many other baronial residences, erected with an eye to defence in civil wars, rather than to convenience in peaceable times; the Catholic king purchased it of the Gaetano family, and fitted it up for the reception of his court, while he was carrying on his noble plans at a small distance behind it; he there caused to be erected, according to the designs of Vanvitelli, a palace which, in size and solidity, surpasses almost every royal edifice in Europe. The vast dimensions of its apartments, the bold span of their ceilings, the excellence and beauty of the materials employed in building and decorating it, and the strength of the masonry, claim the admiration of all beholders, who must confess it is a dwelling spacious and grand enough to have lodged the ancient masters of the Roman world.—It is a pity that its enormous bulk drowns the minuter members of its architecture, and gives too much the idea of a regular monastery, where  
the

the wealthy chief of some religious order pre-fides over long dormitories of segregated monks; by the gigantic range, and the number of windows, too great a sameness is produced, the few breaks in the front become imperceptible, and the lines too long and uniform, consequently fatiguing to the eye; the colonnades sink into the walls, and variety is in vain sought for in the prodigious expanse; bolder and greater projections, massive towers, arcades or portices, would have shewn the parts of this great building to more advantage, and formed those happy contrasts that are so necessary in works of so very large a dimension. Upon a nearer approach, the parts and proportions are better distinguished, and the objection ceases.

The two principal fronts are seven hundred and eighty-seven feet in length, and contain five stories of thirty-seven windows each. The two other sides are six hundred and sixteen feet long, and consist also of five stories, in each of which are twenty-seven windows. The in-

terior is divided into four courts, and in the center of the palace is a superb stair-case, crowned by a circular hall which affords a communication to every set of apartments. The richest marbles are displayed with profusion, most of them dug out of quarries within the realm.\*

The

\* For the satisfaction of the lovers of natural history, I shall here subjoin a list of the different sorts of stone and marble belonging to the Two Sicilies, which were examined by the king's orders, when he determined to undertake this building. Most, if not all, of them were afterwards used in the work.

1. Pietra travertina dura, from the mountain of S. Jorio near Capua.
2. Ditto of a better grain—Vellona near Capua.
3. Ditto softer—dove coloured—Mountain of Caiazzo, in large blocks fit for statues.
4. Pietra of Mondragone for columns.
5. Ditto veined with yellow.
6. Ditto large masses, near the sea.
7. Lumachello of Sicily of all lengths, of which the steps of the great stair-case are made, of one piece each.

8. Pietra



The chapel is incrustcd with pannels of yellow marble, but the paintings, by Conca, are unworthy of the place they occupy; a presentation by Mengs, is a picture of much greater merit.

The theatre is a master-piece of art; antique columns of alabaster support the roof, and divide

8. Pietra of St. Angelo of Puglia for columns.
9. Red Pietra of Puglia of a bad quality.
10. Sicilian yellow for columns.
11. Pietra di Biliemoni in Sicily for columns.
12. Pietra di Calabria, hard.
13. Alabaster of Vitolano, resembling antique flowered-alabaster.
14. Ditto for balusters.
15. Breccia of La Tripalda, veined with coral colour.
16. Yellow alabaster of Gesualdo for columns.
17. Red breccia from Piedimonte in small pieces for rail's.
18. Yellow breccia from Rocca Monfina.
19. Verde of Calabria, green and white-veined like antique Bianco e nero.
20. Slabs of peach-blossomed marble from Puglia.
21. Pietra di Montevergine.

the house into forty-two boxes richly decorated; every part of the design tends to the formation of one magnificent scene and to set off both actors and spectators to the best advantage.

The gardens are very extensive, but when finished according to the original plan, will resemble the formal insipid scenes of Le Notre, with wide sultry alleys and crowded rows of statues. A road is to be opened through the plain to Naples, in a direct line from the front of the palace, for the future torment of impatient travellers; a broad canal is also to be cut from the garden to the hills, and there to receive, by an artificial cascade, the waters that are brought at a great expence to supply the palace; Vanvitelli, whose ideas were of the sublime kind, traced up to their sources, the streams that in ancient times were conveyed to Capua, and found them among the mountains, nine miles from Caserta; he then confined them to one regular channel, and led them by an easy fall along the sinuosities of several valleys, till the depth of one hollow, and the height of the opposite

posite ridge of hills, made it necessary to build an aqueduct across for their conveyance. A less expensive mode might perhaps have been devised, but it was the wish both of the sovereign and his architect to raise a monument that should transmit their names to posterity with honour.

The aqueduct is an edifice of three stories of arcades, of which the upper one is divided into forty-three arches; the two lower ones, on account of the declivity of the hills, and contraction of the valley, consist of fewer; solidity has been more attended to than ornament; the work is plain, but built to withstand the insults of time; from hence the waters are carried in a channel to the cascade, and pass under the city of Caserta Vecchia; this place was in its origin a hamlet, built by some families that escaped from the ruins of Capua; from the bleakness of its situation it was called *Caserta*, *Dreary house*, and it now seems very likely to relapse into its pristine state by the emigration of the inhabitants, drawn into the plain by the con-

veniences of the new city and the charms of its court.

The last and present monarchs have expended large sums in embellishing the environs of Caperta, in planting groves, and building places of rendezvous for hunting.

I traversed the beautiful grove of evergreen oaks in the old garden, called the Boschetto; and drove a few miles towards the sea to dine at a nobleman's seat. It stands in a large grass farm, divided by hedges, and sheltered by oak woods. The country is flat, and rather unhealthy in summer; the pernicious quality of its exhalations does not affect any living creature but man; this situation is peculiarly adapted to breeding and feeding horses and cattle; the only defect I suspect in its nature is a softness which must debilitate their constitution, and make their feet too tender. After dinner the nobleman's stud passed in review before us; the number of mares and foals were prodigious; but very few of them excelled in any capital point  
of



of strength or beauty. Little care is taken to choose grooms possessed of real skill and discernment; and proper crosses in the breed seem not to be sufficiently the objects of attention. The king has also a large stud in this neighbourhood.

The breed of this noble animal might, with judicious management, be greatly improved and converted to a lucrative branch of exportation; but the plan for mounting the cavalry at an easy expence obstructs such extensive views. The sale of horses to foreigners has for many years been prohibited, or subjected to a heavy duty. The king's commissioners mark all the foals likely to suit the service; and keep so regular a list that it is very difficult to convey a horse out of the kingdom without being detected; for the proprietors must produce their number, according to the inventory, or shew the skins of those that have died since the last visitation.

The Neapolitan horses have long been celebrated; and Naples has long had an unbridled

steed for its badge. When Frederic of Swabia came from Germany to take possession of his Sicilian crown, his nobles met him at Rome, and generously presented him with all their fine well-taught horses to distribute among his ill-mounted followers.

The Neapolitan jockies break-in their colts with so rough a hand, and such want of temper, that the animal's spirit is quite beaten down; I once saw one thrown down by a brutal fellow, and almost strangled in the scuffle.

These horses are very pleasant for a ride near town, by way of parade; but much too soft and weak to stand fatigue, or bear a severe push upon an emergency; for this reason the farmers prefer breeding mules, and neglect their horses; some barons keep stallions, and raise large studs.

## JOURNEY

## J O U R N E Y

T O

## P Æ S T U M.

## SECTION XIII.

**T**OWARDS the end of September, I set out upon a tour to Pæstum, and the coast of Amalfi.

On the bridge of la Madelena, at the extremity of the suburbs of Naples, a statue of St. Januarius reminds passengers of the dreadful eruptions of Vesuvius, to which he is supposed so often to have prescribed bounds; a broad level road by the sea-side, and through a village, where many of the nobility have villas, leads to the palace of Portici; at a small distance from  
it

it is the entrance into Herculaneum, a city buried by a torrent of lava that issued from the mountain, in the first year of the emperor Titus Vespasian. The thickness of the heap that covers it has been much increased by fiery streams vomited since that catastrophe; and now forms a mass twenty-four feet deep of dark-gray stone, which is easily broken to pieces; by its non-adhesion to foreign bodies, marbles and bronzes are preserved in it, as in a case made to fit them; and exact moulds of the faces and limbs of statues are frequently found in this substance.

The precise situation of this subterraneous city was not known till the year 1713, when it was accidentally discovered by some labourers, who, in digging a well, struck upon a statue on the benches of the theatre. Many others were afterwards dug out, and sent to France by the prince of Elbœuf; but little progress was made in the excavations till Charles, infant of Spain, ascended the Neapolitan throne; by his unwearied



wearied efforts and liberality a very considerable part of Herculaneum has been explored, and such treasures of antiquity drawn out as form the most curious museum in the world. It being too arduous a task to attempt removing the covering, the king contented himself with cutting galleries to the principal buildings, and causing the extent of one or two of them to be cleared: of these the theatre is the most considerable. On a balustrade which divided the orchestra from the stage was found a row of statues; and on each side of the pulpitum, the equestrian figure of a person of the Nonia family; they are now placed under the porticos of the palace; and, from the great rarity of equestrian statues in marble, would be very valuable objects, were their workmanship even less excellent than it is; one of them in particular is a very fine piece of sculpture\*.

\* The dedicatory inscription of this theatre is  
C. A. P. P. R. O. C. E. T. H. E. R. C. V. L. E. N. S. E.  
S. D. D.

Since

Since the king of Spain left Naples, the digging has been continued, but with less spirit and expenditure; indeed the collection of curiosities brought out of Herculaneum and Pompeii is already so considerable, that a relaxation of zeal and activity becomes excusable.

From these gloomy vaults I returned with eagerness to contemplate the riches they once contained, now arranged in a wing of the palace; I shall not attempt to draw up a tedious catalogue, but point out a few of the most remarkable articles. This museum possesses not only statues, busts, altars, inscriptions, and other ornamental appendages of opulence and luxury, but also an entire assortment of the domestic, musical, and chirurgical instruments used by the ancients; tripods of elegant form and exquisite execution, lamps in endless variety, vases and basons of noble dimensions, chandeliers of the most beautiful shapes, pateras and other appurtenances of sacrifice, looking-glasses of polished metal, coloured glass so hard, clear, and

and well stained, as to appear emeralds, sapphires, and other precious stones; a kitchen compleatly fitted up with copper pans lined with silver, kettles, cisterns for heating water, and every utensil necessary for culinary purposes; specimens of various sorts of eatables, retaining their form though burnt to a cinder; corn, bread, fish, oil, wine, and flour; a lady's toilet, fully furnished with combs, thimbles, rings, paint, ear-rings, &c. Among the statues, which are numerous, connoisseurs allow the greatest share of merit to a Mercury and a sleeping faun; the busts fill several rooms, but very few of the originals, whom they were meant to imitate, are known. The floors are paved with ancient Mosaic; few rare medals have been found in these ruins; the most curious is a gold medallion of Augustus struck in Sicily \*, when he had been saluted emperor

\* I infer the place of coinage from the reverse, which has a female figure with IMP. XV. SICIL.; but the medal may have been struck elsewhere, and only allude to some event or decree in which Sicily was interested.

fifteen times. The fresco paintings, which, for the sake of preservation, have been torn off the walls and framed and glazed, are to be seen in another part of the palace; the elegance of the attitudes, and the infinite variety of the subjects, stamp them as performances worthy of the attention of artists and antiquarians; but no pictures yet found are masterly enough to prove that the Greeks carried the art of painting to as great a height of perfection as they did that of statuary; yet can we suppose those authors incapable of appreciating the merits of an Appelles or a Zeuxis, who, with so much critical discernment, have pointed out the beauties of the works of a Phidias or a Praxiteles; beauties that we have still an opportunity of contemplating? Would they have bestowed equal praises upon both kinds of performances, if either of them had been much inferior to the other? I think it is not probable, and we must presume that the capital productions of the ancient painters, being of more perishable materials



materials than busts and statues, have been destroyed in the fatal disasters that have so often afflicted both Greece and Italy. Herculaneum and Pompeii were but towns of the second order, and not likely to possess the master-pieces of the great artists, which were usually destined to adorn the more celebrated temples, or the palaces of kings and emperors.

A more valuable acquisition than bronzes and pictures was thought to be made, when a large parcel of manuscripts was found among the ruins; hopes were entertained that many works of the classics, which time has deprived us of, were now going to be restored to light, and that a new mine of science was on the point of being opened. But the difficulty of unrolling the burnt parchment, of pasting the fragments on a flat surface, and of decyphering the obscure letters, have proved such obstacles that very little progress has been made in the work. A priest invented the method of proceeding, but it would require the joint labours  
of

of many learned men to carry on so nice and tedious an operation with any success. Perhaps such an employment would be well calculated to fill up the idle hours of the nuns, whose delicate fingers are best adapted to so nice an operation. At present the work is suspended, and the manuscripts lie in dusty heaps, as useless to the learned world as they had been for the preceding seventeen centuries. One volume that was unrolled and compleatly read, contained a Greek treatise against the bad effects of music in a republic.

The royal residence is spacious and well situated, open on one side to the sea, on the other to a large garden and wilderness of ever-green oaks, planted by the late king on the ashes of Vesuvius, which seems to rise out of the grove itself. In this garden the king frequently reviews his chosen corps of Liparotes and Cadets; he condescended one summer to convert these military exercises into a most agreeable *fête champêtre*. During a whole week in June, the  
Neapolitan

Neapolitan nobility and foreigners repaired in the afternoon to this ground, where the different bodies of troops performed for two hours the manœuvres of investing, battering, and storming a castle: the siege was opened by skirmishes, followed by regular entrenchments, cannonading and bombarding. The shells were of pasteboard, and thrown so dextrously as to fall at the queen's feet on the balcony of the beleaguered fortress.

At the close of these martial operations, the whole company adjourned to a temporary theatre; and after the opera to a ball. The presence of the sovereigns rather increased the general ease and gaiety, than gave the least check to the genial freedom that pervaded the whole assembly.

I continued my journey through a most delightful populous country, between Vesuvius and the sea, to Torre della Nunziata; and from thence two miles further to the hillocks formed by the ashes that were cast upon the town of

Pompeii, by the eruption of the year seventy-nine.

The place is inclosed and guarded, to prevent pilfering and the admission of improper persons. The entrance of Pompeii is near the quadrangular barracks of the Roman cohorts that composed the garrison; a portico runs round the court, supported by pillars of stone covered with stucco and painted. The soldiers, in their idle hours, amused themselves with drawing figures of fencers and wrestlers, and in writing their names upon the plaister; the letters are very long, and closely joined together. The present silence and ruinous state of these barracks gave me an idea of a town surrendered after a long siege; I could hardly persuade myself that what I saw had been buried and undisturbed for one thousand seven hundred years. The troops seem to have been accommodated with every convenience and even luxury; for they had both a theatre and an amphitheatre belonging to their quarters.

Near



Near the city wall at this angle lie the fragments of a temple of the old Doric order, monuments of much higher antiquity than the rest of the town. I suppose they were part of some fabrick thrown down by an earthquake previous to the eruption.

The excavations have not been pursued with regularity, but carried on in different situations, just as hope or caprice actuated the minds of the engineers. The center of the city is yet hidden under the vineyards, while the principal exertions are made near the walls and gates. One opening displays some houses, part of a street, and a temple of Isis. The outward appearance of the temple is simplicity itself; its architecture slight, and without any pretensions to the grandeur or solidity of those places of worship which were dedicated to the great national deities; the votaries of the Sabine Isis, as she is named in an inscription still fixed in the wall, were ambitious only of erecting a small neat sanctuary, not a grand fabrick, as perhaps

the earthquake, which did incredible damage in Campania in the reign of Nero, had affected their fortunes too sensibly to allow of a more expensive 'undertaking'. The walls are covered with ornaments in stucco executed in a coarse manner; the inscriptions and paintings have been cut out of this as well as other buildings of Pompeii, and removed to Portici for greater safety, but they have left disagreeable vacancies that disfigure the walls. The penetrale of the temple is a small pavilion raised upon steps, under which is a vault that may have served for the purposes of oracular imposition. The statue of the goddess was not found on the pedestal when the area was uncovered; but as the root of a vine was growing directly upon it,

\* The repairing of this temple is recorded in the following inscription:

N. Popidius N. F. Celsinus ædem Ifidis, terræ motu conlapsam à fundamento P. S. restituit. Hunc Decuriones ob liberalitatem cum esset annorum Sex ordini suo gratis adlegerunt.

there

there is reason to suppose that some peasant had discovered the statue, in making a hole for his plant, and disposed of it long before government had declared any intentions of digging in these grounds.

I was next conducted through a large track of vineyard to a cavity of considerable extent, which has laid open part of a principal street, one of the city gates, a length of wall, some tombs, and a road without the gates. The town walls are built with large squares of lava in regular courses, and the streets are paved with the same materials irregularly laid; the feet of horses and the wheels \* of carriages have worn deep marks in the lava.

The Pompeians paid no attention to uniformity in building their houses, for some advance, while others retire behind the line; the shops have stone seats before them, and over their doors emblems of their trade in relievo. Their

\* The distance between the wheels was exactly four feet three inches.

appearance is exactly the same as that of the present shops of Rome and Naples\*. From an inscription lately dug up, I find that the Pompeians had places of public entertainment, not unlike the modern ones in the suburbs of London and Paris.

The houses are small and built round courts, from which all the apartments received their light; a grate in the centre carried off the water that fell from the roof. The walls of the rooms are stuccoed and painted in a most beautiful taste. On a brown, orange, or other strong-coloured ground, the painter has traced light

\* IN PROEDIS VLIAE SPF      In prædiis Juliæ sine  
patre filiæ, or Spurii filiæ.

FELICIS LOCANTVR

BALNEVM VENERIVM ET NONGENTVM

TABERNAE PERGVLAE

COENACVLA EX IDIBVS AVG PRIMIS IN IDVS

AVG SEXTAS S. Q D L E N C A      Si quis dominam

loci, ejus non cognoverit adeat SVETIVM VERVM

AEDIL.

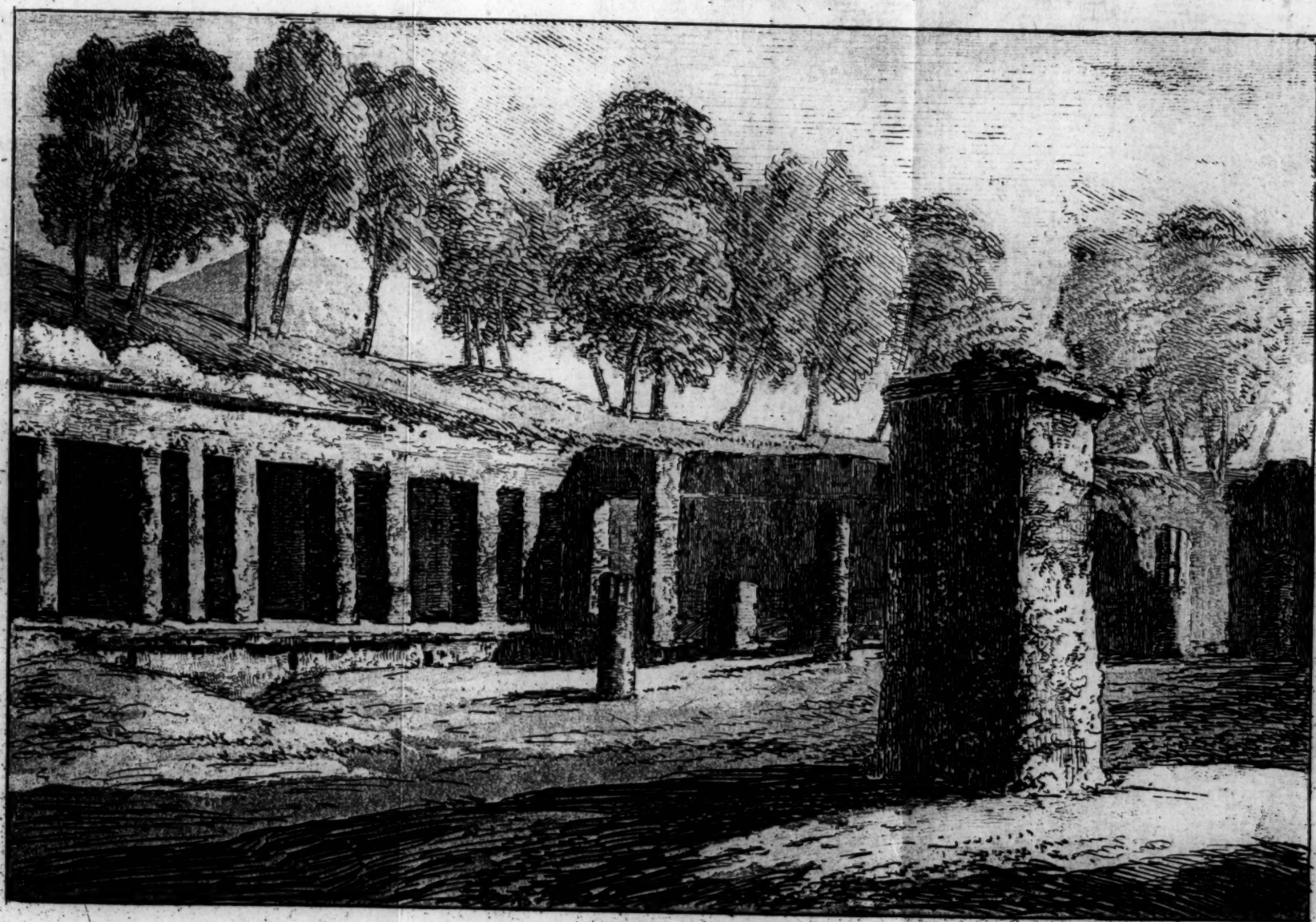
By this advertisement it seems that the mistress reserved to herself the possession of the premises for a few days in August, or let them only for a year, wanting six days.  
borders,



borders and flowing garlands, encircling masks, animals, fruits, landscapes, or decorations of capricious architecture. It is remarkable that in the representations of porticos and temples, the style is as barbarous as that of the Gothic ages; the columns are slender to excess, the entablatures heavy and crowded with fantastic ornaments, which I was surprised and shocked to find in a city where the Greek taste in arts ought to have been more religiously adhered to. I saw no landscape in which the artist has discovered any thorough knowledge of perspective. The rooms are small and square, and many had no light but through the door; in the kitchens and apartments of the servants, a green serpent is painted upon the wall, before which a lamp was kept burning; the same divinity was worshipped near the road, without the walls; on each side of the highway that led down to the sea are tombs, oratories, and semicircular benches where the magistrates sat in their senatorial capacities on some particular occasions. The

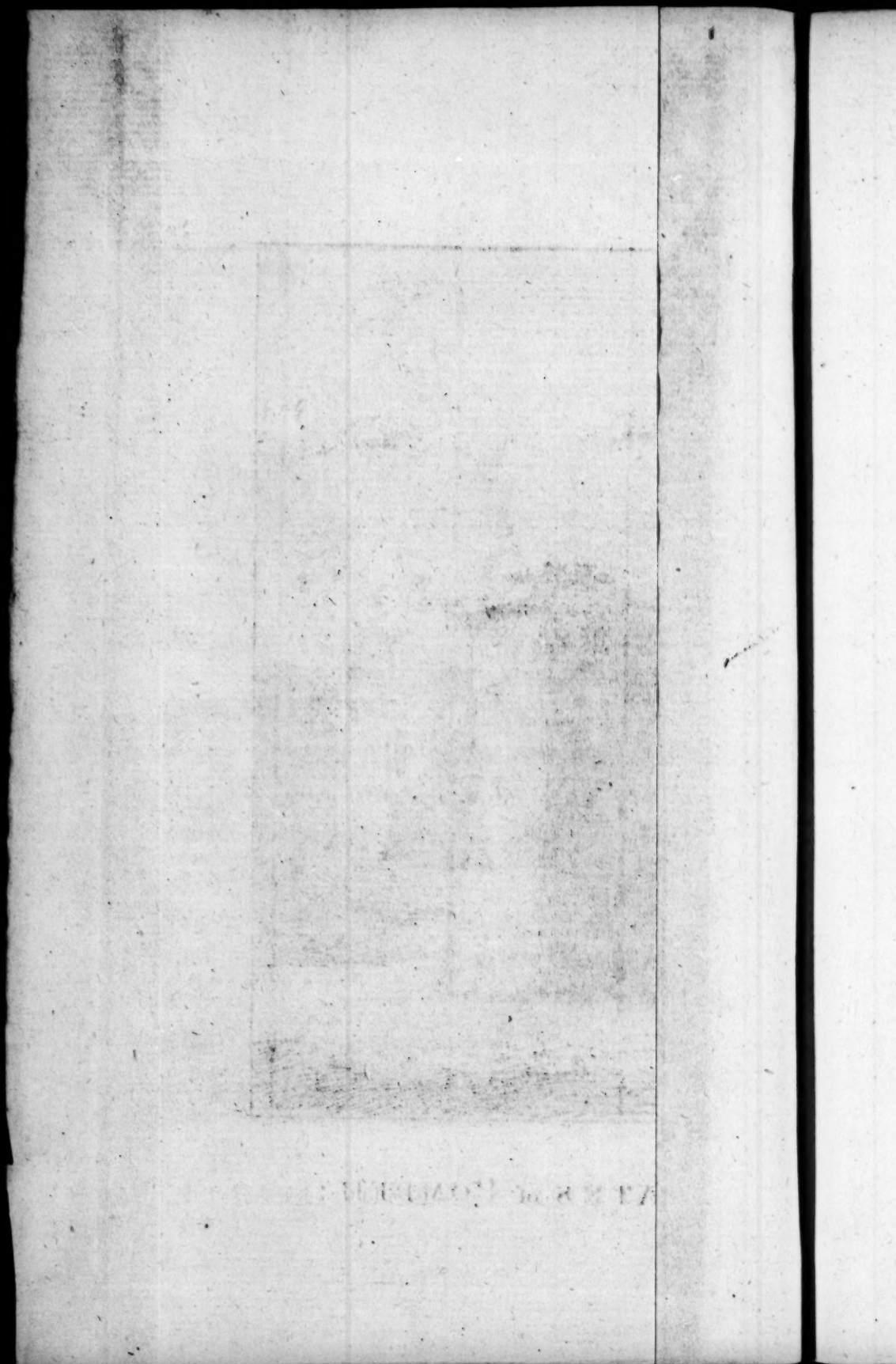
mausoleum of the Terentian family is entirely uncovered; it consists of a square court, on the walls of which are placed the skulls of victims sacrificed in funeral ceremonies, and large masks of clay with weeping countenances and hollow eyes; lights were placed behind them on days of mourning. The pile on which the bodies were consumed stands in the centre of the court near a tower, where the urns were placed in niches.

At a small distance from the city the road is bordered by country houses buried under hillocks of cinders; two only have as yet been dug into; the first was not finished when the fatal event took place, as appears from the heaps of tiles and bricks with which the windows were stopped up. The other is without dispute the compleatest sample we have of the private dwellings of the ancients; it has been covered and preserved for our inspection, through a long series of seventeen ages, and, except in the roof, which could not sustain the weight of such a  
shower



COURT of a COUNTRY-HOUSE near THE GATES of POMPEII.







shower of ashes, is at present exactly in the same state as it was on the day of the eruption by which it was overwhelmed. It consisted of four levels; viz. the cellars, a parterre with its portico or cloyster, and as it was on a rapid declivity, a court above, in which was the street door, and over that, a floor for bed-chambers; to the road it presents nothing but a bare wall, for, like the Oriental nations, the proprietor of this suburban abode guarded against inspection from without, by opening no windows, except towards his own garden; from the town I entered it by a court surrounded with stuccoed columns; adjoining is a triangular area, distributed into alcoves and closets for different sorts of baths. From the level of this floor a terrace projects on each side round a large square; under this story is a broad gallery and coved apartments for summer residence, and on each hand under the terraces runs a portico meeting opposite the house in a hall, that probably opened into the vineyard or pleasure-grounds. Here

was

was found the skeleton of the master with the house-key and a purse of gold. The cellars still contain several amphoras ranged along the wall, and the bones of many wretches who had fled thither for shelter, against the storm that was falling on their heads; but as the ashes were mixed with water and filled up every chink, they entirely covered the bodies of these persons; the stream was so thin, and yet composed of such tenacious substances, that impressions even of the fleshy parts of the human body have remained in the mud.

The cielings and walls of this villa are beautifully adorned with a variety of paintings, which display great fertility of imagination, and elegance of taste; the festoons and borders are admirable, both for lightness of form and brilliancy of colour; as the cinders were not heavy enough to break through the cielings of the lower range of apartments, and could only force their way into them obliquely, these rooms were not quite filled up, so that their paintings have  
been

been preserved much better than any others. All these buildings have lost much of their beauty, by the best paintings being cut out of their walls, and carried to Portici, from an apprehension that the admission of air would soon eat out their colours if left exposed to it. In the window of a bed-chamber some panes of glass are still remaining.

A very small number of workmen is now employed in uncovering this curious city; the reasons given for such slackness, are a satiety of antiquities, and the difficulty of finding proper spots to lay the rubbish upon: the king is obliged to take a lease of the land he chooses to open, and must also hire ground to deposit the earth taken out; many projects of subscriptions and adventure have been devised for carrying on these labours with spirit and regularity, but hitherto none have met with the royal approbation.

Pompeii derived its name from the triumphal pomp in which Hercules led his captives along  
the

the coast after the conquest of Spain. From some expressions in the classics \* I infer that Pompeii stood upon an arm of the sea, and served as a staple for the inland towns; that this inlet has been since choaked up by immense loads of ashes thrown out of the mountain, and the sea confined to its present limits by the raising of the land; it is not at all a surprising effort for the volcano; the prodigious quantity of matter it vomited in the time of Titus would alone suffice, but we know besides that many extensive lavas have been poured down, and many ashy showers launched over their plains since that epocha; Cassiodorus speaks of an eruption that filled the whole country with cinders up to the summit of the trees. The alterations the face of this country has under-

\* Livy, in his first decad, book the 9th, gives an account of a Roman fleet being driven into Pompeii, and landing its marines to plunder the territory of Nuceria.—*Classis Romana in Campaniam acta quum adpulsa Pompeios esset, focii inde navales ad depopulandum agrum Nucerinum profecti.*



gone at different periods must have been very striking and numerous, as it is clear to demonstration, that Vesuvius had emitted flames many ages before the first eruption recorded in history; Pompeii, which was destroyed at that time, is not only paved with lava, but actually stands upon alternate strata of volcanic ashes and decomposed vegetation, as is apparent in the wells and other subterraneous cavities.

## SECTION XIV.

I NOW returned to my carriage, and continued my journey through a fertile plain, divided into fields by ditches and rows of poplars.

I crossed the Sarno at the bridge of La Scalfata \*, near which place Teia, king of the Goths, was defeated and slain in 553, by Narfes. The Sarno is a beautiful limpid stream, abounding

\* Or the ferry, as there was formerly no bridge there.  
with

with eels and cray-fish; but too deep to be forded. It issues out of the eastern chain of mountains in two streams, which unite and inclose the little town of Sarno, before they begin their winding course through the plains \*.

La Scafata is now best known by its church, dedicated to a Madonna, who performs her mi-

\* Within this fork, the army of John of Anjou was encamped when Ferdinand the First attacked it and was repulsed with great slaughter. The defeat was so complete, that if the Angevine prince had been possessed of as much judgment and foresight, as he was of valour and military knowledge, he would, by following that blow, have wrested the crown from the Arragonians. But indolence and neglect of his advantages rendered this victory fruitless.

Jo. Joviani Pontani hist. lib. 1. pag. 30.

Before that period, the banks of the Sarno were famous for the engagement between king Roger and the prince of Capua, in which the former was routed.

In the fifteenth century Sarno was purchased by Francis Coppola, an adventurer; this man, by the favour of Ferdinand the First, amassed great wealth, but lost it all together with his life, for joining in the grand conspiracy of the barons.

racles

racles in water. On the day of her feast a pond is dug in the adjacent fields, which almost instantaneously fills with water, and thousands of devout persons plunge into it to bathe for the cure of a variety of disorders; formerly men and women dipped promiscuously; but of late years government has obliged them to wash in separate pools; the secret of this extraordinary influx is, that the ground lies so level with the bed of the Sarno, or such is the quantity of moisture that filters from the adjoining hills, that wherever you dig, water will immediately follow the spade.

I next passed through the episcopal city of Nocera, which might with greater propriety be styled a cluster of villages; its scattered members extend along the foot of the mountains, and form the Città Sotana, or Low Town, while the bishop's palace and some convents, embowered in cypress groves, cover the peak of a single hill in a very picturesque manner, and compose the Città Soprana.

Nocera

\* Nocera contains near thirty thousand inhabitants, if their own accounts are to be credited; they are dispersed in forty patches of habitation; their houses are constructed with two sorts of stone; the common walls are built with yellow tufa dug out of the hills that lie about a mile to the east; this stone must undoubtedly have been formed by a consolidation of substances thrown out of Vesuvius, because, on opening these quarries, the workmen have frequently discovered tombs, vases, and coins, locked up in the body of the stony stratum. The cases of their doors and windows are made of a black stone drawn from the hill of Fiano, two miles to the north, where it lies eight feet below the surface, in a bed or vein one hundred and forty feet thick, resting upon a base of

\* Anciently, Nuceria Alphaterna, a word of unknown etymology. It was a Roman colony, and had its mint.

Num. Nucerin.

1. Caput virile imberbe—Equus stans capite reflexo, inter crura. A . . IN . .

land.



sand. This is clearly a stream of lava congealed.

The best lands of Nocera are situated to the westward; from the abundance of water with which they can at all times be refreshed, some of them yield the husbandman three crops in one year; viz. beans, turkey-wheat, and broccoli, or similar sorts of vegetables; the usual rent is twenty ducats (£ 3. 15 s.) per moggio\*. Other grounds are let from eight to fifteen ducats the moggio, and yield only two crops, but they are planted with fruit trees and vines; there is a third and most valuable tract, called, *le Padule* or *Incegni*, from the use of the Egyptian wheel †; these parts are allotted to

\* Five moggie are equal to four English acres—One moggio being equal to 35,721 square feet.

† The Egyptian wheel consists of a string of pots or buckets, which, by being drawn circularly through the water, are filled each in its turn, and discharge the water into a trough, as they are brought to the top of the well, and turned topsy-turvy.

horticulture, and produce both fruit and vegetables in astonishing abundance \* ; but as the rent is so high as twenty-five ducats (£ 4. 13s. 9d.) the tenant must take off two good crops at least each year to be able to support himself and family. From the humidity of the soil, millet grows here in great perfection ; wine is superabundant, and the Nocerines drink largely of it, which causes perpetual brawls and bloodshed among them.

Nocera is a place of great antiquity : in the thirteenth century it acquired the appellation of *de Pagani*, to distinguish it from a city in Umbria of a similar name. This addition alludes to a colony of Saracens brought from Sicily by

\* The following circumstance is a sample of this fruitfulness : One summer the quantity of cherries was so great that hands were wanting to gather them, and they were so cheap as not to be worth the carriage to Naples ; notice was therefore given by the owners of orchards that every body was at liberty to gather, eat, or carry away as many as he thought proper.

Fre-

Frederick of Swabia, and settled here to be out of the way of their dangerous connections with Africa; on this account Nocera is frequently confounded with Lucera by the remiss or ignorant chroniclers of the succeeding ages. The most extraordinary event in its history is the siege of its castle, in the year 1384. Pope Urban the Sixth had encouraged Charles of Durazzo to invade the kingdom of his relation and benefactress Joan the First, because she favoured the party of the antipope of Avignon, and also because he expected to obtain from Charles a princely establishment for his nephews. Durazzo promised every thing, and fulfilled nothing; Urban, one of the most violent of men, was exasperated at this breach of faith; and, to be revenged, commenced a treaty with the sons of Lewis of Anjou, who had been adopted by the unfortunate queen on the news of Durazzo's intended invasion. To prevent these machinations producing any pernicious effects, Charles dispatched an army to

seize the pope's person in Nocera, where he then resided with a small court of Cardinals. The attack was made with fury; but repelled with equal valour: Urban's inflexible character instilled incredible spirit into his partisans; to omit no species of assistance, he was wont to appear at a window thrice a day, holding in his hand a bell and lighted torch, and there excommunicate his enemies; thus devoting their souls to everlasting perdition, while his soldiers were dealing out destruction on their bodies. The assaults growing more and more vigorous, and the strength of the garrison diminishing daily, the cardinals began to press the pope to think of some accommodation: this eagerness of theirs for peace excited much jealousy and rage in the breast of the haughty pontiff, who, upon intercepting a letter in cyphers from the enemy's camp, caused the five cardinals that were shut up with him to be put to the torture, in order to force a confession of their intentions of betraying him. His secretary Theodoric de Niem



Niem writes, that it was a curious spectacle to behold the pope walking backwards and forwards repeating his breviary, while cardinal Sangro lay stretched upon the rack; and now and then stopping to ask how his treaty with the king went on. Though none of these prelates made any confession, Urban put them all to death, and maintained the siege till Raymond Orsino and Thomas Sanseverino, at the head of a band of desperadoes, forced the royal lines, and conveyed him off safe to the Genoese galleys that were lying in readiness to receive him.

The Caraffas were lords of this manor in the sixteenth century; Philip the Fourth mortgaged it to a Portuguese nobleman, whose heirs still possess it. The absence of the baron causes a fatal relaxation of justice and order, and renders Nocera notorious for quarrels. A friend of mine, whose avocations oblige him to pay frequent visits to this city, by which means he has acquired a thorough knowledge of the manners and character of the inhabitants, paints the

Nocerines as differing essentially from the rest of the Campanians; he thinks they have inherited from their Arabian ancestors a temper more prone to bloodshed, more deaf to remonstrance, and inaccessible to reconciliation; they drink a great deal of strong wine, and are very quarrelsome when intoxicated. He reckoned in the course of one year forty homicides; fifteen of which he was an eye-witness of. They are also attached to a variety of idle superstitions, which, however, are daily losing ground. Of these none is more singular than the ceremony of the feast of the Madonna delle Galline: during the procession, hundreds of hens are placed successively on the poles that support her image, and the miracle consists in the birds sitting quiet. The number of people pressing on every side, and the surrounding noise, make the poor frightened hens remain as still as if perched at roost.

## SECTION

## SECTION XV.

**A**FTER leaving Nocera, the road is confined between walls, and in rainy weather is filled by a very considerable stream from the mountains; without these bulwarks the grounds below would be torn to pieces, and even now so great a quantity of water and pebbles is hurried down by the torrent that it often bursts the parapets, and overwhelms large tracks of cultivated fields with barren heaps of rubble-stones. As the damage is sometimes very extensive, the proprietors have a scheme under consideration for conveying all these waters in one body to the Sarno by means of a canal.

A mile from Nocera is a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, erected by the immediate successors of Constantine the Great, with the fragments of a Pagan temple. The outside architecture is quite plain; within it is of a circular

M 4

form;

form ; the roof, a flattish cove, rests upon small ill-proportioned arcades, which again are supported by thirty columns of various kinds of marble, with capitals of different foliage, but all intended to be of the Corinthian order ; these pillars are grouped in pairs, and placed in lines drawn from a central point, thus forming a double colonnade at a considerable distance from the outer wall ; within this circle is an octagon basin where the Greeks baptized by immersion ; it had formerly a canopy held up by small Corinthian columns, of which only five remain. The whole arrangement is deficient in beauty, and argues a decline in the fine arts.

Near this church the road, which is perfectly good, turns off to the right, and ascends a mountain that unites the Sorrentine promontory with the grand mass of the Apennines : in former times the passage towards Calabria was in a direct line through the valley of Sanseverino, belonging to the princes of Salerno, who exacted tolls from travellers in a most arbitrary manner.

About



About two hundred years ago, the oppression grew so intolerable, that it awoke the attention of administration; the viceroy opened a new road by la Cava, a royal manor; and took such precautions to render it safe and convenient that the old one was entirely abandoned.

The views during the passage over these heights are extremely beautiful, and the more pleasing from their dissimilitude to the scenes round Vesuvius; they consist of a great variety of hill and dale, terminated on each side by a noble range of mountains; vast tracks of wood cloath the neighbouring slopes; slender turrets built for the purpose of netting wood-pigeons appear on each commanding point; wild dashes of rock break the uniformity of the green forest; villages, convents, and villas, are seated in the angles of the mountains; and near the road the country is one rich vineyard diversified by clumps of tall trees or spiral avenues of cypresses. This is certainly the happiest of scenes for the study of landscape-painting;

Nature

Nature is no where dressed in gayer attire, her features are no where better disposed for warming the imagination and rousing the enthusiasm of a great artist; we are informed by tradition that some of the most celebrated masters have felt the force of these charms, and introduced many of these beauties into their admirable compositions.

La Cava was more properly a district, containing many villages and hamlets, than a city, till the new road brought to it a concourse of travellers and merchants. Having long been a part of the king's domain, it has been encouraged to traffic by many valuable privileges; a cloth manufactory gives it life and increase of population, and its inhabitants seem to enjoy greater ease in their circumstances than those of the neighbourhood. They were remarkable for a pertinacious opposition to the late powerful society of St. Ignatius, which they would on no account suffer to gain a settlement among them;

them; but, though they were able in this instance to baffle the policy of the most acute order of men in the Roman church, they are by no means distinguished from the rest of the natives by the brightness of their intellects; quite the reverse, the simplicity and blunders of the Cavaoli are the subject of many standing jokes in the country.

I deviated from the high road, and visited the celebrated Benedictine abbey of la Trinita, to which all the environs formerly belonged; but to avoid its being put into commendam, the monks obtained of Leo the Tenth the right of choosing a superior out of their own body, at the expence of as much of their estate as made a competent revenue for the bishop; they acknowledge that there still remains a clear yearly income of fifteen thousand ducats (£2812. 10s.) after this defalcation; and, I believe, they are wise enough to speak very much within the bounds of truth,

This

This abbey, founded by Alferius of Salerno, and particularly patronised by the Norman princes, is situated in a dell among the woods; it is overshaded by a huge cliff, on the lofty brow of which is a little walled burgh called Corpo di Cava, the original town, of which the present city and its Casali were only dependencies.

The church and monastery have been lately rebuilt upon the foundations of the old abbey, which was not sufficiently raised above the level of the torrent that rolls in the dark glen below. The ancient dormitory is now the cellar. The church and the abbot's apartments occupy the front of the quadrangle, built in the style of a modern palace; there are faults in the architecture, but the general effect is extremely agreeable. The inside of the church is light, and rich in marbles, but not in paintings; the altar is insulated; the ashes of the founder are deposited in a tomb covered with Mosaic flowers and grotesques in the style used by the Saracenic artists of the eleventh century; most of the build-

ings



ings erected by the Norman kings were carried on according to their plans, and under their direction, for the Christians were at that time ignorant of all sciences except the military one. These Saracenic architects and masons, with whom, in process of time, many Greeks and other Christians associated, after serving an apprenticeship to them, formed themselves into a confraternity and mystery, and travelled over the world, undertaking buildings by contract. They kept their rules and modes of proceeding a profound secret, and knew one another by certain signs, which none but the initiated could perceive, or understand. Free-masonry is the genuine offspring of this society, though its present members only exercise their architectonic talents with chalk upon the floors of their lodge. The tomb of Alferius is placed in a chapel hewn out of the rocks which appear through the side-wall of the church, and have a very disagreeable effect in an edifice adorned in all its other parts in a gay, modern manner.

In

In the porch is the monument of Sybilla, wife of king Roger, decorated with the same kind of neat Mosaic.

The abbot has a pleasant habitation, and some good pictures: he very politely pressed me to make some stay in the convent; but it being inconvenient for me to accept his hospitable invitation, I continued my journey down a beautiful winding road, which afforded uncommon points of view at every turn. A brook hastening to discharge itself into the gulf of Salerno roars along the bottom of a narrow valley through woods and rocks, which opens at a delightful village called Malina, and suddenly displays a fine prospect of the sea.

At Vietri, which is a considerable town on a promontory, the highway turns round to the left, and, descending rapidly over prodigious piles of rocks that line the shore, after a course of two miles reaches the gates of Salerno. An astonishing variety of scenery occurs during the last hour's ride; here no species of natural beauty

is wanting that can be desired in the composition of the richest landscape; the sea spreads out an immense blue surface, and, lest its uniformity should appall, suffers many shaggy rocks to break the smooth line; bold mountains and woody plains advance and circumscribe its limits; stupendous cliffs, cast in the grandest mould of Nature, hang majestically over the deep; romantic towers guard the coast, which is ornamented with gay villas and hanging gardens, behind which rise hills clad with verdure of a thousand tints, and in the bosom of a noble theatre of mountains, the extensive buildings of Salerno ascend in a pyramidical form to the ruins of its ancient castle, that crowns this wonderful picture.

## SECTION XVI.

**S**ALERNO extends about two miles in circumference; part of it lies along the shore, the rest rises in terraces up to the castle mount, which is remarkable for nothing but its situation on a pinnacle detached from the general mass of mountains. Ancient walls in tolerable repair inclose the whole; the streets are narrow and crooked, the houses high and gloomy. The old sovereigns of this principality dwelt in a palace near the cathedral, but the only traces of it I could perceive are in the names of some of the neighbouring streets, as S. Pietro in corte, Strada reale, &c.

St. Matthew is the tutelar saint of Salerno; his bones are said to have been brought from Pæstum, and deposited in the archiepiscopal church. The see was established in 994, and  
became



became an archbishoprick in 1099. The cathedral was erected by the pious donations of the Norman conquerors upon the site of an ancient building; the style of architecture is Gothic and heavy, much the worse for some late repairs, by which the clustered groups of columns that bear the weight of the roof are shut up in massive squares of stone and plaister. The *atrium*, or court, before it is spacious, and surrounded by a portico of antique columns of porphyry, granite, and other valuable marbles of various sizes and orders, upon which the Normans constructed a range of brick arches, bent more after the Saracenic than the Gothic or Grecian manner; they support a regular set of apartments; in the centre is a basin of granite, fifteen feet in diameter, constantly filled by a fountain of excellent water. Many ancient sepulchres are placed in the colonnade, and the church contains also some monuments of remarkable personages. Roger, Duke of Puglia, who died in 1111, and his son William, in

whose person the line of Robert Guiscard failed, are interred within its walls. On each side of the entrance into the choir is a pulpit raised upon pillars, where the deacon and sub-deacon read the Epistle and Gospel. The work is of Norman times, very different from what we style Gothic, being rather a bungling imitation of Grecian art; the pannels are formed by rich Mosaic of many colours, disposed in knots and stars; the columns are of precious marble; the choir is inlaid with square and oval plates of verde antico, porphyry, and serpentine; the great altar, decorated in the same barbarous but splendid manner, has on each side a beautiful green and white marble column. The present archbishop has erected a mausoleum near it, for the future reception of his own body, opposite the chapel and tomb of Hildebrand, who filled the chair of St. Peter, by the name of Gregory the Seventh, and died in the year 1085. This haughty pontiff made all the princes of Christendom tremble at his frown, and bow their necks before

before the footsteps of his throne; but at length, being driven from Rome by the imperial faction, was forced to throw himself into the arms of Robert Guiscard: the crafty prince protected him from further insult, and treated him with every empty mark of respect, but kept him confined at Salerno, like a fierce tiger, too dangerous to be suffered any more to roam at large. The violence of a spirit, irritated by the agonies of disappointment, preyed upon his constitution and hastened his death. He was canonized by Gregory XIII. and passes for a great saint at Rome and Salerno; but the celebration of his festival has long been prohibited at Naples; and the rest of the Roman Catholic world has never shewn any inclination to acknowledge his claim to beatitude.

Beneath the church is a chapel, ornamented in a very puerile taste, with marble arabesques. The bones of St. Matthew the evangelist are here enshrined in a silver altar. There is scarcely a cathedral in the kingdom without the body of

some apostle or patriarch; nor any without a similar subterraneous chapel peculiarly dedicated to him.

On the stairs that lead to this sumptuous crypta, is an antique bas relief of men carrying sacks of corn out of a ship, and an inscription which shews how essential the ancients thought pious donations, prayers, and burning of lamps, were to the welfare and happiness of departed spirits.

HAVE SEPTIAAA SIT TIBI  
TERRA ÆVIS QVISQV  
HVIC TVMVΛO POSVIT ARDENTE  
ΔVCERNA MIAΔIVS CINERES  
AVREA TERRA TEGAT.

The Greek lambda, introduced into this epitaph, shews that it was cut by an artist of a country where the Latin tongue was familiar only to the higher class of citizens, while the inferior sort were more conversant with Greek.

The same attachment to departed friends used  
to



to manifest itself at Salerno in a very extraordinary manner, till a provincial synod held in the fifteenth century condemned and abolished the practice. On the eve of All Souls it was customary to provide a sumptuous entertainment and beds in every house, that the souls from purgatory might come, make merry, and afterwards take a nap; during the whole night, the house was abandoned by its inhabitants; and that family was looked upon as accursed by Heaven, on whose table the smallest remnant of victuals was to be seen the next morning when the proprietors returned: this dreaded event seldom, if ever, befel them, for the expected feast drew together all the thieves in the country, who went from house to house, revelling without controul, and carrying off what they had not time to consume, while the master of the house was on his knees in the cold church.

The Olivetan monks have an ancient church, consisting of a large chancel, and ailes separated from it by rows of antique columns of different

forts and fizes ; the ailes are remarkable for having their roof quite flat and level with the entablement of the colonnade. This is exactly the plan for a temple so much recommended by Father Laugier, a very ingenious, though rather whimsical, writer upon architecture. The pavement abounds with inscriptions ; and on the wall is the epitaph of master Peter Barliardus, whose story is recorded in a printed paper below it. Though it be a childish tale, the universal belief it meets with at Salerno entitles it to a place in an account of that city.

He was a famous schoolmaster, ninety-five years old, consequently a great magician. One day three of his grand-children, who were under his tuition, happened to meet with his conjuring book, and to read aloud a cabalistical passage in it ; at this powerful summons the devils appeared to know their pleasure, and frightened the boys to death. When Peter came home and saw the fatal catastrophe of his family, he evoked his infernal spirits, and chided them for having  
killed

killed the children; but the imps proved their innocence clearly; and the accident brought the old wizard to so speedy and lively a sense of his crimes, that in a fit of compunction he instantly seized his pernicious books, and, kneeling before the door of this church, burnt them all to ashes; a fountain bubbled up immediately on the spot, and runs to this day in commemoration of the event; Peter having still doubts of his salvation, begged a crucifix, which hung before him, to give him some sign of forgiveness, and lo! the image opened its eyes, bent its head forwards, and the old man dropped down dead, overwhelmed with joy and contrition.

Not far from this legend is an ancient sarcophagus, adorned with hunting subjects. The prior having previously enquired of my servant if I was a Frenchman, and finding that I was not one, informed me that it contained the bones of John of Procida, who planned the Sicilian vespers. But as that patriot died at Rome, and

as Salerno was in the possession of his mortal enemies, I doubt the truth of the assertion.

In an adjoining yard is a large marble relievo, representing the Roman fasces disposed in a saltire. I was told it was taken from the walls of a ruin called the Prætor's palace. I suppose it was fixed as an ensign of dignity in the front of a public tribunal, or the residence of a magistrate.

#### SECTION XVII.

**I**T was then the time of holding the great fair of Salerno, to which many foreign vessels resort laden with bale goods, metals, groceries, salt-fish, and hardware; the shop-keepers of all the country that lies to the south and east come to purchase a stock for the ensuing winter. The fair is kept on the beach, and enjoys many immunities; by a bill pasted upon the gates, all common prostitutes, who intend to ply for hire during



during the fair, are enjoined to appear before the magistrates, declare their profession, and pay ten carlini a head for a licence.

Salerno is accounted a place of bad air in summer, which proceeds from the rice grounds, the mephitic vapours exhaled in the valley behind it, and its confined situation impervious to the northern breezes; it is consequently never cleared of its foulness by that sharp salubrious wind, while the south wind, whenever it prevails long, brings up most pernicious miasms from the plains. The Salernitans treat this as a mere fable; but no stranger, if he be wise, will try the experiment; should he have occasion to visit this part of the country in summer or autumn, I would advise him to sleep at Vietri. There the air is pure, elastic, and sweet; whereas that of Salerno must in some degree be unwholesome. When I arrived near the gates, I felt an immediate heaviness, an oppression on the breast, and soon a benumbing pain in my head; these disagreeable symptoms lasted till I returned to the high grounds,

grounds, in which I found present relief, and freedom of respiration.

The history of Salerno forms an interesting portion of the general one of Italy during the space of time which is known by the appellation of the Middle Ages. Before that period it was seldom mentioned, though a Roman colony.

In the division of the Lombard conquests it became a part of the territories governed by the dukes of Benevento.

Salerno acquired the splendour of a separate sovereignty by the decline of Benevento. In the ninth century, Siconulph and Radelchis fought for the ducal crown, and at last agreed to compromise their differences; an equal partition of the dominions was the result of the negociation, and from that epocha are dated the appellations of Hirther and Nether principality. The princes descended from Siconulph, to whose lot Salerno fell, governed it during a space of two hundred years, with many vicissitudes of glory and disgrace; some of them prescribed laws to the neigh-

neighbouring states of Naples and Amalfi, and took the lead of the other Lombard potentates; but some also found themselves obliged to yield to superior force and policy. These intestine troubles gave the Greeks and Saracens, their natural enemies, very great advantages over them, and reduced Guaïamar the Second to the fatal necessity of purchasing the assistance of the Norman adventurers; the fable of the stag and the horse was realized in the unfortunate princes of Salerno, for their deliverers soon became their conquerors, notwithstanding all the ties of alliance and friendship. In 1076, Robert Guiscard dispossessed Gisulphus the Second of his principality, and annexed it to the duchy of Puglia.

The Salernitans did not bear the yoke with submission, but shewed a constant readiness to join any party that was likely to ease them of it; their conduct drew upon them a multitude of disasters. To keep this turbulent spirit within bounds by the awe of their presence, the Norman

man kings were wont to spend much of their time in this city, which contributed greatly to its embellishment; their Lombard princes had done a great deal towards its aggrandisement; and the succeeding race followed their example, by erecting churches and other considerable edifices; most of these works were humbled to the dust by the vindictive hand of the emperor Henry the Sixth. During his contest with Tancred for the Sicilian Crown, the people of Salerno had taken the empress Constantia prisoner, and delivered her up to Tancred. Had the Sicilian prince been as bloody-minded as the German, her life would have been in danger, or, if spared, would have remained a pledge for the security of the actual possessor of the throne; but the descendant of the Norman heroes disdained so unmanly an advantage, and released the empress from her confinement. When Tancred died, and the Swabian cause prevailed, Henry recalled to mind the insult, and laid Salerno in ashes. His son Frederick seems to have been ambitious  
of



of wiping away the traces of his father's vengeance, and to have honoured Salerno with many tokens of his regard and protection. The attention of Manfred was also particularly directed towards this place; perceiving that the bay from its openness was unfit for the great purposes of traffick, he employed his favourite minister, John of Procida, in erecting a mole to break the force of the winds and waves. This work has been long swept away, but an inscription in the cathedral records the undertaking.\*

Nothing has contributed so much to the renown of Salerno as its school of physic, which owed its foundation to the revolution occasioned in the sciences by the arrival of the Arabians in Europe in the eighth and ninth centuries. These

\* + A. D. MCCLX. Dominus Manfredus, magnificus rex Siciliæ, Domini Imperatoris Frederici filius, cum interventu domini Joannis de Procida, magni civis Salernitani, domini insulæ Procitæ, tramontis Caiani, et baroniæ Postilionis, ac ipsius domini regis socii et familiaris hunc pontem fieri fecit.

Mahometan

Mahometans introduced a taste for learning into Italy, where the darkeſt ignorance had long overſpread the land, and ſeem at that period to have poſſeſſed the only reaſonable learning that was left. The people among whom they made a ſettlement were improved by the example of their conquerors : they raiſed a degree of emulation in the long torpid minds of men \*, and by exciting a deſire of knowledge brought ſeveral ſtudious perſons and ſcholars to Salerno, where an univerſity was formed, with profeſſors in various ſciences and languages. Charlemagne contributed to its eſtabliſhment, or at leaſt gave encouragement to its members ; it therefore boaſts of greater antiquity than the univerſities of Paris or Bologna. Conſtantine the African, a man of high reputation as a practitioner of the medical art, took refuge in the court of Robert Guiſcard, and obtained the eſteem and

\* At that period the ſtudy of natural hiſtory, phyſic, and mathematics, was known in Europe by the name of Saracenic ſtudies.

confi-

confidence of that hero; Alfano, archbishop of Salerno, a prelate of considerable knowledge, was another of his patrons. To their influence may be ascribed the additional privileges bestowed upon this seminary of learning, and to their encouragement the spirit with which the scholars prosecuted their labours. In 1100, the members of this school published a collection of rules for preserving and restoring health, a work that was crowned with the applauses of that and the succeeding ages; it was composed in Leonine verses, and dedicated to Robert duke of Normandy, son of William the conqueror of England; that young prince was then actually resident at Salerno, where he had put himself under the care of the physicians, in order to be cured of a wound he had received from a poisoned arrow in the wars of Palestine. His wife, Sybilla of Conversano, is said to have sucked the poison out of the wound, and to have given this bright example of courage and conjugal attachment, which Eleanor, the wife of our Edward

the

the First, followed on a similar occasion. Perhaps the latter story has been fabricated in imitation of the former one.

The succeeding princes of the line of Hauteville were equally munificent and attentive in their patronage of this school, which all the contemporary authors agree in styling the most famous college in the known world; so proud was Salerno of the merits of her medical sons, that, on her common seal, she assumed the title of the city of Hippocrates. Frederick the Second of Swabia was too learned, and too sensible of the great benefits accruing from the cultivation of the sciences, not to afford a most distinguished protection to so good an establishment; his grants were more ample and honourable than those of his predecessors.

The school continued to flourish in great glory, and to produce men highly esteemed in their profession, till physick began in the fourteenth century to be generally practised by the clergy and the religious orders. By degrees, these



these interlopers, who derived many advantages from their sacred character, and their sway over the minds of the people, ingrossed the practice, and ruined the lay-professors; the schools were no longer followed; and medical knowledge was no longer to be sought for out of the cloyster. From these causes, and others not so clearly stated by the authors that have been at the pains to trace the science through all its revolutions, the school of Salerno sank into oblivion and neglect. The art of healing has since that æra worked its way imperceptibly towards the more northern regions of Europe, where profound reasoning and meditation, chemistry and experimental philosophy, have made many very happy improvements in the medical system.

The Angevine kings gave the title of prince of Salerno to their eldest sons; that of duke of Calabria was afterwards substituted in its room, when the exigencies of the state and civil dissensions had rendered it necessary to alienate this great fief. It became feudal in the person of

Jordan Colonna, nephew to Pope Martin the Fifth, who was invested with it in the year 1419. Fourteen years after, it was granted to Raymund Orfini, earl of Nola, and, in the reign of Ferdinand the First, was bestowed upon Robert Sanseverino earl of Marfico. In his posterity it continued for some generations, till in the time of Charles the Fifth it was forfeited for high treason by Ferrante the last prince, with the greatest part of the vast possessions of that powerful and turbulent family.

#### SECTION XVIII.

**I** Hired a boat, and left Salerno at four in the morning; the pilot, being apprehensive of a rough sea, kept constantly within a cable's length of the shore, which is very low; at ten he landed me at the tower of Pesto, thirty miles distant from Salerno. After walking near a quarter of a mile over a sandy down, I arrived at the west gate of the ancient city of Pæstum, a colony of Dorian Greeks, restored and augmented

mented by the Sybarites. Its oldest name was Siftilis, which was afterwards changed to Possidonia; the name of Pæstum seems to date no higher than the time of its becoming subject to the Romans. It was made a Roman colony 272 years before Christ. With the loss of liberty it parted with its importance; the only thing that gave it any celebrity amid the numerous possessions of that all-conquering people, was its rose; the Pæstan rose, from its peculiar fragrantcy, and the singularity of blowing twice a year, is often mentioned with predilection by the classic poets\*; the wild rose which now shoots up among the ruins is of the small single damask kind, with a very high perfume; as a farmer assured me on the spot, it flowers both in spring and autumn.

The desolation of the city was occasioned either by the frequent invasions of the Saracens,

\* Biferique rosaria Pæsti.—Virg.

Odorati rosaria Pæsti.—Propert.

Prataque nec bifero cessura rosaria Pæsti.—Martial, &c.

who made a strong settlement in the neighbourhood at Agropoli, once a kind of citadel to Pæstum, or from the increasing perniciousness of its air. The quantity of sulphureous and stagnated waters must at all times have rendered this plain unwholesome; but, when the inroads of those barbarous enemies had depopulated the city, and deprived the few remaining inhabitants of the power of maintaining the drains, and continuing their usual course of husbandry, the noxious tendency must have gained such a head as to make this district the seat of pestilence\*.

We have very little acquaintance with the history of the Pæstans, who, being far removed from the other Grecian colonies, interfered but seldom in their quarrels, and appear to have united with the surrounding nations of Barbarians at an earlier period than any of their countrymen. It was usual for the Pæstans, at the celebration of an annual festival, to lament and

\* Strabo and Martial take notice of the unwholesomeness of this situation.



weep that they were thus banished from their native Grecian shores, and become no better than Barbarians; but in the next minute to rejoice that, in this situation, they enjoyed protection, peace, and abundance of all good things\*.

Their

\* Nummi Possidonium five Pæstanorum.

Ex Auro. In duplici quadrâ, vinea racemis onusta  
 ΓΟΣΕΙ-ΔΩΝΕΑΤΑΝ—Dimidium equi ΓΟΣΕΙ.

Ex Argento.

1. Neptuneus trid. vib. ad talos fol. ΠΟΜ—Bos ΠΟΜ.
2. Incusus. Nept. trid. vib. palliatus ΠΟΜ.
3. Nept. trid. vib. ΠΟΜ—Bos ΠΔΙΕΜΟΝ.
4. Delphin hordei gran. et aplustre ΣΙΣΤΥΑΙΣ—Cap.  
 imb. pl. vultu.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. Minervæ gal.—Neptuneus trid. vib. ΠΟΣΕ.
2. Nept. ΠΟΣΕΙΔΑ—Bos delph. ΠΟΣΕΙΔΑ.
3. Leo gradiens—Cornucopiæ ΠΑΕΣ.
4. Cap. viril. barb. diad.—Delphin ΠΑΙΣ.
5. Cap. Apoll. 4 glob—Cornucop. caduer. 4 glob. ΠΑΙΣ.
6. Idem.—Aper. ΠΑΙΣ.
7. Id.—Canis ΟΣ ΠΑΙΣ.

Their medals denote a degeneracy from Grecian skill and elegance, being more clumsily designed and executed than most coins of Sicily and Magna Græcia; but in their buildings they displayed the true Grecian solidity and majesty of taste. Few cities have left such noble proofs of their magnificence, such monuments of their architecture. The private habitations of its citizens were not able to resist the dilapidations of so many revolving ages; but the town-wall is almost entire, and incloses an area about three miles in circumference; in many places it is nearly of the original height, and built with oblong stones dug out of the adjacent fields; they are a real travertino, formed by a sediment of sulphureous water, of which a strong stream washes the foot of the walls; it comes from the

8. Cap. vir. bab. Laur. delphin.—Cupido delph inf. de cor. 3 toid. ΠΑΙΣΤΑΝΟ.

9. Cap. Dianæ—Spicæ ΠΑΙΣ.

10. In circulo quadra 4 glob. ΠΑΕΣΤ—Cornucop. cum fulmine. Reliqui Colonia Romanæ.

moun-

mountains, and, spreading itself over the flat, forms pools, where buffalos are continually wallowing in summer up to their noses.

The gates are placed in the center of each side of the quadrangle, and a great street may yet be traced in a line from the north to the south gate; on its eastern side stand the remains of the principal civil and religious edifices. Nearest to the south wall is a quadrilateral building, with nine columns in each front and eighteen on each side, reckoning those of the angles for both; the architrave is whole all round, and so are some pieces of the frieze, but without any of the distinctive ornaments of the Doric order. These columns are much tapered, and swell considerably in the middle; their diameter at bottom is six feet, and at the top of the shaft four feet six inches; the ovolo of the capital rests upon amulets, adorned with leaves; the center column is differently carved from the rest; the abacus is plain and high; the colonnade without base, and supported by a triple socle. This

edifice is divided into two equal parts by a row of similar pillars that run down the middle of the whole length, answering to the center column of the pronaos; the inner range of the pronaos consists of three columns and two pilasters, swelling in the middle as the columns do, but crowned with a capricious ornament, not unlike an Ionic capital; the flutings and proportions of the whole building belong to the noblest style of the Doric order. The stone was slightly stuccoed over to hide its holes and defects. This edifice was most probably appropriated to the service of the public, either as a commercial exchange, a court of justice, or a senate-house; the majesty of this ruin must excite admiration, even in those whose taste inclines them to relish only that luxuriant and ornamental species of architecture in which the ancient Romans delighted, and in which their successors, the modern Romans, have suffered their genius and imagination to wanton almost without bounds; an eye that brightens only with



with the view of nice Corinthian foliage, and the minute members of the Composite order, will perhaps receive no delectable impression from the sight of such massive proportions, such simple and solid parts as these. An observer must have reflected seriously on the art, and weighed the purposes of each building, with the intention of the architect, before he can bring himself to allow these noble remains of antiquity the praise they so richly deserve\*.

At a small distance towards the north, is the most capital building of Pæstum, a temple of the kind called pseudodipteros, having six columns in the fronts, and fourteen on the sides, including those of the angles. The pronaos is composed of two columns and two pilasters,

\* After I returned from the country south of Naples and from Sicily, where I had seen nothing remarkable in architecture but old Doric temples, I thought the best buildings of a different style and order, pretty, but delicate to excess. It was like turning from the transfiguration of Raphael to a miniature of Petitot.

without

without any swelling. The walls of the cella, now almost destroyed, were carried in a line from the pilasters; with the columns of the pronaos, which are higher and larger than those of the perystile, ranges a colonnade, supporting a row of smaller columns. These walls and colonnade divided the cella into three walks, and together with the perystile bore the roof upon a level. The outer columns are six feet in diameter, and thirty in height; they have twenty-four very sharp flutings, and their intercolumniations measure seven feet. The pediments and entablatures are almost entire, and of a solemn massy proportion; the architect has not suffered his plan to be cramped by the ordinary rules of the Doric order, but has extended his metopes in breadth at the angles, in order to place the triglyphs at the corner.

This is one of the noblest monuments of antiquity we have left; though built in a style few modern architects will adopt, it may perhaps serve to inspire them with sublime ideas, and  
convince

convince them how necessary to true grandeur in architecture are simplicity of plan, solidity in proportions, and greatness of the component members; they may perhaps discover that a profusion of ornaments rather diminishes the general effect of a large building than adds to its real dignity; and that the Greeks and Romans acted upon wise principles, when they raised their great public buildings in a plain, grave taste, reserving for small edifices that high finishing, which is more expressive of elegance than majesty.

Following the same line, I came to the ruins of a smaller temple entirely overturned; from the fragments of its entablature and capitals, I presume the date of its construction was much posterior to that of the above-mentioned buildings; the frieze was adorned with foliage and figures; it had pilasters as well as columns.

Near it are the remains, or rather vestiges, of a small amphitheatre.

The

The last ruin towards the north is a temple of six columns in front, and thirteen in flank, of a smaller proportion than those of the other temple, to which this is also inferior in architectural merit; it has no remains of vestibule or cella, and, like all the other buildings, was stuccoed over.

Not many years are elapsed since Pæstum began to engage the attention of the literary world; the first publishers of its views inform us, that an accidental visit of a painter to a town in the neighbourhood rescued these ruins from oblivion; but we are not therefore to suppose that Pæstum had remained unknown, buried deep in impervious forests, and hidden for ages from the sight of man; it certainly never was surrounded with wood; and between the walls and the sea, a bare sandy down reigns along the coast. The pillars of Pesto have long been, and are to this day, a landmark for sailors, and are seen, as I can witness, from every part of the extensive gulph of Salerno. I am sorry to  
destroy



destroy Mr. Brydone's hopes, that some magnificent heap of ruins will hereafter be discovered among the forests of Calabria; the situation of almost all its ancient Greek cities is ascertained; from my own knowledge and the information of the natives, who are well acquainted with the recesses of their wildernesses, and by no means inattentive to the remains of antiquity, I may venture to affirm, that there is not a shadow of probability that any discoveries of that kind can be made in Calabria. Pandofia and Tempfa are the only towns which antiquaries differ in placing, and neither of them was of such note, as to promise any very superb ruins, if by chance they should have remained concealed from all eyes to the present time.

I was busily employed in drawing and measuring, when the boatman came to inform me, that the sea was exceedingly ruffled by a strong north-west wind lately sprung up, and that it would be impossible to put out the boat again before night. As it was yet dangerous to sleep

ON

on that shore, I procured a caleffo from the neighbouring town of Capaccio, and returned by land. The country is flat, loamy, and arable; the passage of the river Silari, in a crazy wherry, was attended with some danger and a great deal of delay.

The forest of Perfano had a fine effect along the horizon. The king frequently resides in his palace of Perfano, because its woods are better stocked with game than any other of his chaces. There is in them a beautiful breed of white deer, with brown ears; it was found some years ago to have increased to such an extent, that for the relief of the husbandman the king thought proper to destroy a great number of them. Above two thousand head of deer were shot in a few weeks; the country people were surfeited with venison, and ships laden with the skins.

At Vicenza I joined the post-road, near the spot where Picentum stood, the ancient capital of the country; and about ten at night I reached Vietri.

R E-

## R E T U R N

FROM

P Æ S T U M.

## SECTION XIX.

THE following days were devoted to a ramble among the woods and mountains, on horseback and on foot, without laying down any regular plan; the first object of my curiosity was the Palombiera, or the station for netting wild pigeons, a diversion most eagerly pursued by the citizens of La Cava, who dedicate this season of the year to feasting and merry-meetings. They assemble in parties, and if any stranger

stranger chances to stray to their rendezvous, give him a most cordial welcome. I am not in the least surprised at their passionate fondness for this sport, as I found it extremely bewitching, keeping the attention constantly alive, and the springs of the mind pleasingly agitated by expectation; the situations where the toils are spread, are incomparably beautiful; the air is pure and balsamic, and every thing around breathes health and satisfaction.

When the periodical flights of stock-doves return from the northern and western parts of Europe, to gain warmer regions for their winter abode, the fowler repairs to the mountain, and spreads his net across the intermediate hollows, the passes through which the birds direct their course, to avoid unnecessary elevation in their flight. These nets are hung upon a row of large trees planted for the purpose.—The branches being very thick and close at top, and the bole lofty and bare, a great opening is left below for the toils, which reach to the ground,  
and,



by means of pullies, fall in a heap with the least effort. Sometimes they are extended upon poles that exceed the height of the trees. At a small distance is a lofty circular turret, like a column with a little capital or cap, upon which a man is stationed, to watch the approach of the game. As he commands a free view over all the country, and practice has made his sight as acute as that of the lynx, he descries the birds at a wonderful distance. The doves advance with great velocity; but the alert watchman is prepared for them, and, just as they approach his post, hurls a stone above them with a sling; upon this the whole flock, whose fears have birds of prey for their great object, supposing the stone to be an enemy of that kind ready to pounce them, dart down like lightning, to avoid the blow by passing under the trees; but there they rush into the jaws of death by dashing against the net, which instantly drops and so entangles them, that not one of them can escape the active hands of the fowler. These birds are

sometimes taken by dozens at one fall, and are accounted fine eating. The dexterity with which the flingers manage their weapon is very remarkable; they throw the stone to a great height without any violent effort, and even without whirling the sling round before they discharge the pellet\*.

The view from the Palombiera of Vietri is replete with exquisite beauties; if the spectator direct his sight towards the north, he commands La Cava, its numerous hamlets, and immense tracks of wood that cloath the sides of the towering mountains, and through an opening catches a glimpse of the smoaking top of Vesuvius, with the long line of plains forming the horizon behind it; if he turn to the south, Salerno presents itself almost at his feet with all its charming environs; the nearer eminences

\* In the Pyrenean mountains, where the same diversion is followed, the watchmen use a bow and arrow, trimmed with the feathers of a hawk.

abound with aged timber, among which the rich verdure of the Spanish chestnut predominates, though interspersed with fine common and evergreen oaks; the ground at their foot is hidden beneath thickets of beautiful shrubs. The arbutus, laurustinus, myrtle, and numberless other sorts, flourish in this happy soil. The large-leaved maple, black alder, hornbeam and ash, are not uncommon in these forests.

From this delightful station I directed my course down the mountain to the pleasant village of Molina, and finished my ride by a rural dinner. The scene of my repast was a sequestered valley, over-shaded by thick woods and high impending rocks; their brow is jagged with long stalactites formed by the filtration of the water; a clear rivulet flows out of a cavern at their foot.

On the second day of my ramble I climbed the mountain that runs towards the west; but first I descended to the Marina of Vietri, a considerable town joined to Vietri by a continued

narrow line of houses : the productions of La Cava that are destined for exportation, are here put on board small vessels. This place was known in antiquity by the name of Marciana, perhaps derived from that of Trajan's sister. It is said that many statues and curiosities were found here some years ago, but that the bishop of La Cava, having Heathen images in abhorrence, ordered them to be broken and buried in the foundations of a house he was then building.

From hence I ascended slowly for some hours through hamlets hanging on the mountain's sides, commanding most delightful views of the bay, and through extensive woods of chefnut-trees, to Dronea, a small convent of Dominicans above La Cava. A friar and a lay-brother, the only inhabitants of this retired hermitage, provided me with breakfast. From this halting-place I travelled up the woods, over rugged rocks and amidst precipices, to a monastery of Camaldoli, dedicated to Santa Maria l'Avocata.

The



The atmosphere was unfortunately so enveloped in clouds that it was but at momentaneous intervals, when gusts of wind broke the veil, that I was indulged with a glimpse of the coast and mountains; in vain for me did the sun illumine the country below; I could seldom even perceive how brilliantly those scenes were gilded by his rays.

The prior and his assistant received me very courteously, and offered me the monastic fare their house afforded. I accepted the invitation, and sat down with great readiness to a frugal repast of macaroni and greens. Whether hunger had banished all Epicurean delicacy of palate, or the things were uncommonly good in their kind, I certainly found a great relish in this homely meal.

After dinner I wandered into the woods, where the monks have cut walks in the side of the mountain, exactly in the same natural style that a Brown would have adopted had he been called upon to lay out a similar situation. The

clouds for some time obstructed all prospect, but towards evening they were dispersed, and afforded me the enjoyment of a most surprising view. I appeared to look down from another region, through an opening in the vault of the heavens.

The convent occupies the point of a promontory projecting from the mountain, and has so steep a fall on the three other sides, that I shuddered on the first look downwards. The Sorrentine mountains lay all within sight, tumbled in rude majestic confusion; towns and villages seemed like dots in a map, and the bounds of the sea were lost in the sky.

The Camaldoli are sent hither by rotation from other convents; they lead a hard life, and, for every purpose of human and national benefit, a very useless one; they are fully satisfied that it is of the utmost advantage to themselves in particular, as they thereby become more acceptable to the Deity, and also to the public at large, by the efficacy of their prayers, which

stop

stop the uplifted scourge before it reaches the heads of guilty mortals. Their orisons are almost incessant, and application to study is not allowed; indeed they are effectually prevented from pursuing it by seven summonses to church in twenty-four hours, and by a custom of pausing and meditating at each verse of their office. They however enjoy the liberty of walking out with greater latitude than the Carthusians, and look healthy. The air of this place is very pure, but is cruelly disturbed with thunderstorms, especially in winter, at which season not a week passes without some part of the buildings being struck with lightning. The monks affect to treat it with great contempt, relying boldly on the protection of the Madonna; yet they acknowledged to me, that very lately a priest had been struck down at the altar, and a lay-brother killed. The winds are so boisterous and cutting, that neither flowers nor fruit can be raised, therefore the gardens belonging to each cell are stocked with cabbages only; sometimes the

blast oversets the lay-brothers as they cross the court with the dinner for the monks, and sweeps away the basket with the provisions. Snow lies here half the year. The possessions of the monastery yield about two thousand ducats annually (£375) and agents in the cities along the coast supply it daily with fish and other necessaries. Women are allowed to enter the inclosure only on two days in the year; all male pilgrims and travellers are lodged and fed during three days; and as the sea is sometimes too rough to allow a passage to Amalfi and other places by water, this house is of infinite service to passengers, being situated on the only practicable road across the mountains.

In the afternoon I walked down to Majuri, a town containing five thousand inhabitants, situated on the shore at the mouth of a deep valley; the torrent that has worn this hollow does frequent damage, and often sweeps away both gardens and houses. The higher parts of the mountains that inclose this valley abound in  
ever-



evergreen oaks of a diminutive size; coppice-wood cloaths the sides; vines, and hanging gardens of orange-trees fill up the lower region. The people of Majuri are active and industrious, trading in fruits of their own growth, and in macaroni made with wheat which they draw from Puglia: by their skilful method of compounding and kneading the flour, or from some peculiar excellence in the water and climate, they make the best *passe* in the kingdom.

I was admitted into a garden belonging to a gentleman now on his travels, which I viewed with great delight, as it is adorned in a style happily adapted to the situation and climate. The mansion is neat and airy, the gardens intersected by canals of limpid water, that either runs in strong streams amidst rich-scented parterres, or tumbles in cascades through grottos of shell-work and shady bowers. In his menagerie I was surprised to find two black cocks \* and three

\* Tetrao Minor.

grey hens in fine feather and health, notwithstanding the warmth of this climate, which seems ill-suited to the constitution of a bird that delights in lofty mountains and cold morasses. Their food here is millet and the green leaves of the lettuce, and other plants that grow within their pen. These birds were brought from the Genoese mountains above the gulph of Spezzia.

## SECTION XX.

**N**EXT day at eight o'clock in the morning, I went to sea in a six-oared barge. The day was mild and rather cloudy; the sea perfectly smooth, of a dark blue colour, and the view of the coast sublime; the lofty mountains seemed to rise out of the bosom of the waves, covered with verdure to the very summit, except some rocky pinnacles that served to vary the landscape. Half way down their sides I discerned many villages scattered thicker and  
thicker

thicker as the eye descends, till near the bottom the surface is quite covered with white houses and orange-groves; on the boldest and most towering points, convents and churches are placed, and in the deep dales that split the mountainous ridge, are jammed the four principal towns of the coast. The shore is rocky and bold, turned in many romantic forms, with dark caves, paths, and buildings hanging in a tremendous manner over the brow; while beneath lies a noble expanse of sea enlivened by crowds of light skiffs skudding across its surface. Near Majuri is a large cavern full of stalactites, which being broken from the roof are tossed about by the waves till they are smoothed and rounded: they are of a milky whiteness and well polished, and resemble the concretions called *confetti di Tivoli*. We passed before Minuri, a smaller town also dealing in macaroni, formerly the dock-yard of Amalfi; then doubling a promontory we lay on our oars to contemplate the town of Atrani, which is  
squeezed

squeezed in between two cliffs joined together by buildings; a road winds up this valley to \* Ravello and † Scala, two episcopal cities, or rather straggling villages, on the mountain tops.

I soon arrived at the city of Amalfi; its buildings are not remarkable for elegance or size, and contain at most four thousand inhabitants, who seem to be in a poor line of life. Amalfi is but a shadow of what it was in its flourishing state, when it extended over the stupendous rocks that hang on each side, still crowned with battlemented walls and ruined towers. It presents few objects that can recall any idea of its

\* This place was founded in the eleventh century by some refugees from Amalfi, and therefore called Ravello from the word *rebelles*. It was plundered in 1137, by the Imperialists. Many Neapolitan families are said to have come from hence.

† Near this place which they had stormed, the prince of Capua, and his allies were routed by king Roger. It was again sacked by the emperor's troops in 1137. These sees are now united under one bishop.

ancient

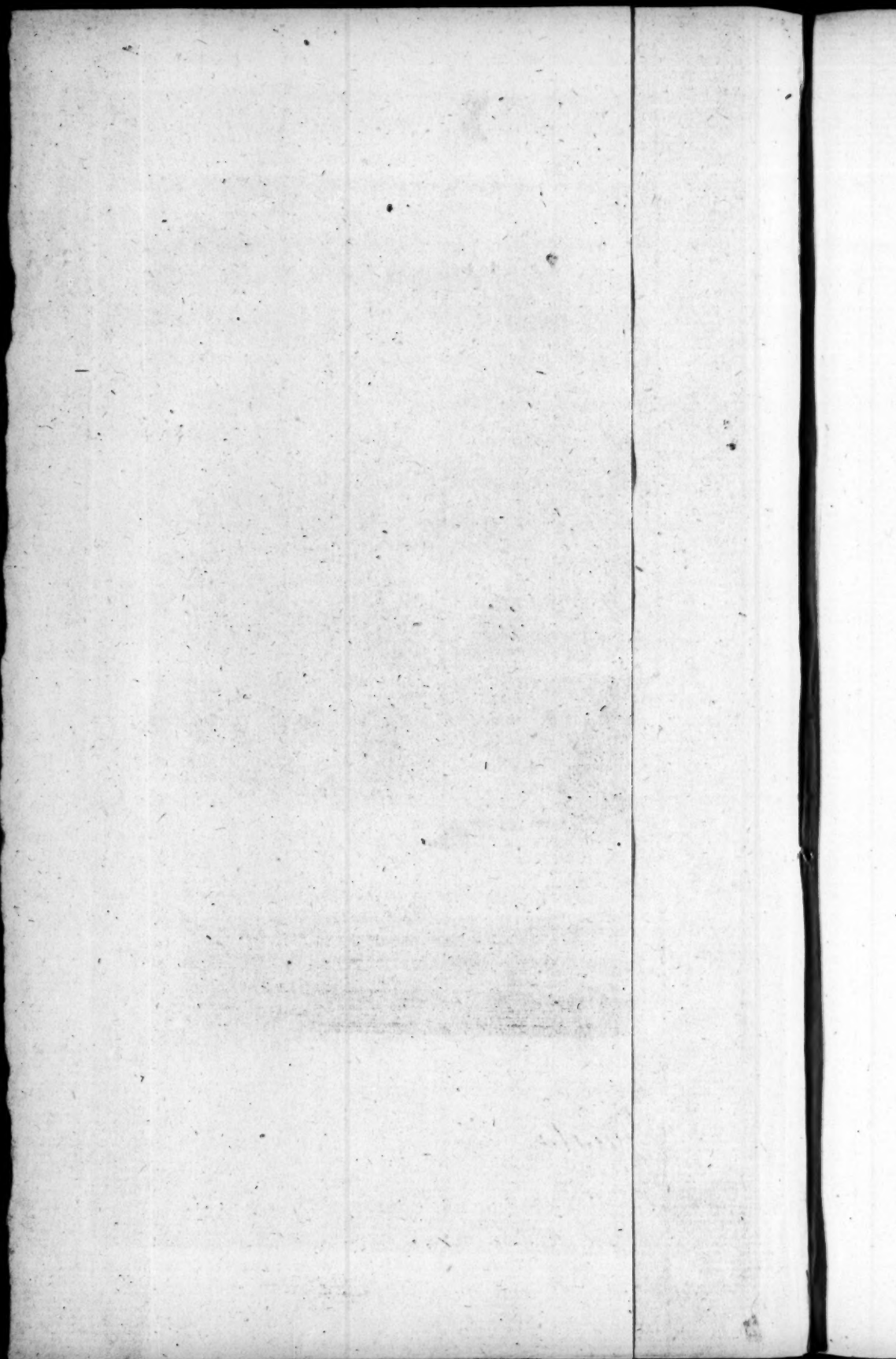




H. Sw. del.

P. Marzoli sculp.

View of AMALFY and its Coasts.



ancient prosperity. The cathedral is in the least agreeable of those styles of architecture that were invented or adopted in the barbarous ages, when Grecian rules and proportions were forgotten. The steeple is one of the ugliest of its kind, and the portico has not even Gothic lightness. Two grand antique columns of red Egyptian granite placed at the entrance of the chancel, make the deformity of the surrounding objects more visible. Under the choir is the chapel and tomb of the apostle St. Andrew; in whose honor the edifice was dedicated, when cardinal Capuano, in 1208, brought his body from Constantinople. This crypta resembles that of St. Matthew at Salerno in shape and uncouth arrangement of marble ornaments upon the walls.

Near the landing place is a low gate, composed of the fragments of an elegant Pagan temple. Two beautiful Corinthian capitals, with some pieces of cornice and soffita, are placed as supporters of the arch.

The

The origin of this archiepiscopal city, which is not mentioned by any historian of the upper empire, is differently accounted for: the opinion most generally received is, that about the middle of the fourth century a considerable number of Roman families, either from private views of emolument, or in consequence of compulsory orders from the emperor, left Rome, and embarked for Constantinople; but, meeting with storms on their passage, were cast away on the shore of Salerno, and deprived of the means of pursuing their voyage. In this state of perplexity they long remained, but at last came to the resolution of settling on the present site of Amalfi; where they expected to enjoy security and sufficient plenty of the necessaries of life.

The first notice its historian, Panfa, has been able to discover, dates no higher than the latter end of the sixth century. Impervious mountains and inaccessible coasts preserved this infant state from the first fury of the Lombards, who seldom



seldom attempted the conquest of a maritime people.

In the year 825, when this little republic had, under the patronage of the eastern emperors, attained a degree of wealth and reputation sufficient to excite the ambition of its neighbours, Sico, prince of Salerno, marched a body of troops by night, and surprised Amalfi: dissensions among the citizens had encouraged and facilitated his enterprize. The conqueror carried off the greatest part of the inhabitants, and compelled them to fix at Salerno, which had lately suffered a great loss of people by an epidemical disorder. This mode of emigration was too oppressive to effect a speedy union; and before the fourth year of their captivity was expired, the Amalfitans took advantage of the absence of the Salernitan chiefs, who were then carrying on a war with the Beneventans, armed themselves, and after burning and plundering Salerno, marched in triumph back to their native

native abodes ; their late masters were in no condition to oblige them to return.

Being thus restored to their country, the Amalfitans framed a better system of government, and reformed many abuses in their former legislation ; adopting various measures that were likely to promote internal concord, and defeat the evil intentions of foreign enemies. Their first plan was to vest the supreme authority in a temporary prefect, but the experience of a few years caused them to prefer lodging that power in the hands of a duke elected for the term of his natural life. If prosperity be the test of sage counsels, this alteration was a wise one ; for under these governors Amalfi attained the summit of her military and commercial glory. Pope Leo the Fourth found the Amalfitans an useful ally in his wars with the Infidels, and honoured the commonwealth with the title of Defender of the Faith. The Neapolitans, with whom, as Greek vassals, they were united in strict bonds of friendship, experienced many  
signal

signal favours at their hands: the Mussulmen themselves found it expedient to court their alliance, and to enter into treaty with them.

Their situation had from the beginning given them a turn to commerce, and their attention to naval affairs so much consequence in the eyes of their protector, the emperor of Constantinople, that by his orders a court was established at Amalfi, for the decision of all controversies arising in maritime transactions: its code and reports became the general rule in those cases throughout this part of Europe; its precedents and decrees were allowed to be good authority to found judgment upon, even in foreign tribunals. The merchants of this town engrossed the trade of the Levant, and transacted the commercial business of the world in a lucrative and exclusive manner. The Pisans, Venetians, and Genoese, rose upon their ruin, and, after monopolizing the emoluments of trade for some ages, made way for the more comprehensive and daring spirit of the present maritime powers.

The necessities of the eastern nations forced them, in defiance of all religious antipathies, to admit the Amalfitan traders to a free and constant intercourse with them, even during their hottest wars against the other Christians. These exclusive privileges gave the Amalfitans an opportunity of laying the foundation of an establishment that has long been a most painful thorn rankling in the side of the Mahometan potentates : I speak of the order of knighthood instituted under the patronage of St. John of Jerusalem, the members of which were afterwards called Knights of Rhodes, and, since they were dispossessed of that island, Knights of Malta. They owe their existence, as a body, to the favour these merchants enjoyed at the Caliph's court, and to their compassion for the pilgrims that visited the sepulchre of Christ, who having neither friend to assist, nor house to receive them, underwent the greatest hardships and dangers during their passage and stay in the Holy Land. The charitable traders obtained  
leave



leave of the Muffulmen chief, in 1020, to erect two small hospitals and a chapel for the use of votaries coming from the western parts of Europe. Many zealous persons devoted themselves to the service of the sick and distressed; the active Amalfitans undertook to collect alms in Italy, and to remit the necessary supplies for the infant settlement. When the city of Jerusalem fell into the hands of the crusaders, and a greater concourse of pilgrims repaired to the holy shrine, it was esteemed proper not only to provide for their accommodation at the end of their journey, but to secure them a safe passage through countries infested by a cruel and inveterate enemy. Then the humble attendants of the infirmary cloathed themselves in armour, and sallied forth in regular troops to meet and escort the caravans safe across the perilous deserts; then the templars and the hospitalers began to be conspicuous.

To crown the mercantile and naval glory of the republick, it was reserved to the lot of an

Amalfitan to make, or at least to perfect, the most important discovery ever made for the improvement of navigation. Pasitano, a village which stands on the shore a few miles west of Amalfi, boasts of having given birth to Flavius Gioia. This man, in the early part of the fourteenth century, constructed the nautical compass, with eight points, and upon the north point fixed a flower de luce, the armorial ensign of his sovereign, who was descended from the kings of France. It is affirmed by some authors, that the property in the loadstone of turning towards the north pole was well known long before that æra. In the fifth volume of Monsieur de Buffon's Supplement, or *Epoques de la Nature*, the Chinese are said to have been in possession of this secret above four thousand years, but without ever applying magnetism to any purposes of navigation. He adds, that Homer in his *Odyssæy* says, that the Greeks employed the compass in navigating their ships to Troy, about the same period of time at which the Chinese have placed their

their discovery. This last assertion seemed to me so very extraordinary, that I was at the pains of examining scrupulously every part of the *Odyssey*, but could not find any passage that even alluded to such a circumstance: several gentlemen profoundly skilled in the Greek language, who know almost every line of Homer by heart, made the same attempt with the same ill success. I should be sorry to impute a mistake to so eminent a writer merely upon negative proofs; but, until the passage be pointed out to me, I must withhold my belief of any such expression existing in Homer.

Some historians are of opinion, that the nautical compass was invented about the beginning of the thirteenth century, improved and rendered proper for the service of navigation by Gioia about an hundred years after. The reign of Edward the Third is the epocha at which we can fix with any certainty its being commonly used. I believe a very imperfect idea of the virtues of the magnetic needle existed before the

year 1302; the principles were not unknown; but there still hung a veil over them, which hindered their being thoroughly investigated, though some feeble attempts may have been made towards it. Flavius Gioia no doubt took the hint from some precursory experiments, but was sagacious or fortunate enough to find out the real method of rendering this extraordinary quality of matter beneficial to society.

## SECTION XXI.

**A**MALFI was too flourishing a state, and too tempting an object of conquest, to escape the ambitious eye of the Norman princes: as they never piqued themselves upon the justice of their enterprizes, and were seldom deterred by difficulties, Amalfi had every reason to expect an attack, which could not fail of proving ruinous to a trading nation; to prevent its bad effects,



effects, it was agreed by the citizens to make a voluntary surrender of their liberties to Robert Guiscard.

The Normans proving harsh masters, and an opportunity offering for regaining their independance, the Amalfitans rose in arms against duke Roger, and, after many sufferings, had the satisfaction of seeing him raise the siege of their city, which he had long blockaded with a considerable force. The holy war, which was then looked upon as the common cause of Christendom, may in this instance be said to have made the Amalfitans some return for their zeal in behalf of the pilgrims and sojourners in Palestine; for it was a summons to the crusado, that drew off the greatest part of the besiegers, and procured the deliverance of the town. In the year 1100 the duke found means, by bribing and sowing dissentions among the inhabitants, to repossess himself of this state, and to abolish even the shadow of its republican constitution. From this period Amalfi become lost to its former

connections, and exposed to the attacks of every power at variance with its new masters. The prince of Capua, the Pisans, and the Germans, laid it waste at different times. The pillage by the Pisans forms a very interesting epocha for all nations that have modelled their jurisprudence upon the institutions of the Roman law, for they carried away the pandects\*, a copy of the code which was compiled by order of Justinian the First; this table had been brought as a curiosity from Greece, by a merchant, but had not obtained any authority at Amalfi, where the Theodosian code was in force. The other states in the south of Italy were either governed by the maxims of the Lombards, or had compiled a mixed system of Gothic, Greek, Roman, and Norman laws. The pandects were no sooner arrived in Tuscany, than the emperor Lotharius, who was persuaded that their spirit was favour-

\* Pandectæ (in Latin Digesta), so called from their embracing the whole circle of jurisprudence.

able to his interests, employed Irnerius to revise and arrange them, and then he ordered them to be read and taught in all schools throughout his dominions. Accursius afterwards reduced them to their present form of codices and digests ; and such has been their success, that in almost every part of Europe they have entirely superseded, or at least prevailed over, the Celtic traditional modes of judgment, the Lombard customs, and in short over the institutes of all the various conquering nations of the north, that divided the Roman spoils among them. England alone has constantly refused them admittance into her constitutional jurisprudence. Some of her tribunals indeed, which, having inspection in maritime and ecclesiastical cases, may be pronounced of foreign origin, have adopted their spirit and practice : professors of civil and canon law have often attempted to extend their use and powers, but have always met with a vigorous opposition from the nation, which with great justice considers her old common law

as the law of freedom, and the rock on which the glorious fabrick of her constitution is founded. The Roman code was the offspring of despotism, nurtured by absolute monarchs, and a venal crew of civilians; how therefore can we expect the delicate plant of liberty should thrive under its shade?

Long before the age of Justinian, the ancient Roman tables, which, altho' in many instances favourable to aristocracy, and inimical to general extensive liberty, were still calculated for a republican government, had undergone great and material changes and mutilations; and surely it cannot be supposed, that a committee appointed by the Emperor of the East was likely to pay great regard to the welfare of the people in any instance where it clashed with the views and apparent interests of the monarchs. Giannone, and other civilians, launch out into the most rapturous praises of the Justinian code, and think it impossible for any nation to emerge out of barbarism without the helping hand of the



the civil law, or to maintain due order in its government, if it follows any rules not perfectly consonant to those doctrines.

However predominant the spirit of this system may be in the legal institutes of the Two Sicilies, nevertheless, a most material portion of their jurisprudence is derived from the Lombards, French, Goths, and Greeks. In Abruzzo, a mountainous and retired province, the traces of Lombard laws and usages are very conspicuous; but almost every town throughout the kingdom has customs of its own, partaking, more or less, of the nature of the constitutions belonging to the old inhabitants.

The feudal tenure appears to have been introduced by the Lombards into the northern provinces, and into the southern by the Norman conquerors, who were accustomed to it in their native country: scarcely any symptoms of it are to be discerned in the government of the Greeks. The Spanish line of kings made greater alterations in the law of the land than any  
of

of the preceding dynasties; and particularly bent their efforts towards eradicating all remains of Lombard institutes.

Commerce, that capricious child of industry, which prospers only when left to the freedom of its own regulations, and certainly droops as soon as touched by the hand of power, however tenderly applied, sickened and withered at Amalfi after the destruction of its liberty. The disorder was incurable, and early in the æra of the Angevines had reached its last stage. Trade was entirely lost to this coast in the reign of Joan the First. The alienation of its lordship to feudal proprietors was no doubt a circumstance that hastened its dissolution. The brother of Pope Martin the Fifth (Colonna,) had the first grant of Amalfi; the Sanseverini the next; then the Orfini acquired possession; and lastly Piccolomini enjoyed it with the title of duke.

## SECTION XXII.

**H**AVING taken in provisions for dinner, I embarked, and rowed along the shore to a tunny fishery. The season was far advanced, and the business almost finished; but one of the watchmen belonging to it explained to me every part of the machinery.

The nets are spread over a large space of sea by means of cables fastened to anchors, and are divided into several compartments. The entrance is always directed, according to the season, towards that part of the sea from which the fish are known to come. A man placed upon the summit of a rock high above the water, gives the signal of the fish being arrived; for he can discern from that elevation what passes under the waters infinitely better than any person nearer the surface. As soon as notice is given  
that

that the shoal of fish has penetrated as far as the inner compartment, or the chamber of death, the passage is drawn close, and the slaughter begins.

The undertakers of these fisheries pay an acknowledgment to the king, or the lord, upon whose land they fix the main stay, or foot of the tonnara; they make the best bargain they can, and, till success has crowned their endeavours, obtain this leave for a small consideration; but the rent is afterwards raised in proportion to their capture.

The tunny belongs to Linneus's scomber among the thoracici, and enters the Mediterranean about the vernal equinox, travelling in a triangular phalanx, so as to cut the waters with its point, and to present an extensive base for the tides and currents to act against, and impel forwards. These fish repair to the warm seas of Greece to spawn, steering their course thither along the European shores, but, as they return, approach the African coast; the young  
fry



fry is placed in the van of the squadron as they travel. They come back from the east in May, and abound on the coast of Sicily and Calabria about that time. In autumn they steer northward, and frequent the neighbourhood of Amalfi and Naples; but during the whole season stragglers are occasionally caught.

When taken in May, the usual time of their appearance in the Calabrian bays, they are full of spawn, and their flesh is then esteemed unwholesome, apt to occasion head-achs and vapours; the milts and roes are particularly so at that season. To prevent these bad effects, the natives fry them in oil, and afterwards salt them. The quantity of this fish consumed annually in the Two Sicilies almost exceeds the bounds of calculation. From the beginning of May to the end of October it is eaten fresh, and all the rest of the year it is in use salted. The most delicate part is the muzzle. The belly salted was called tarantellum, and accounted a great delicacy

delicacy by the Romans; its present name is Surra. The rest of the body is cut into slices, and put into tubs.

We afterwards doubled Cape Conca, so called from a village built on the declivity of the mountain. From this point the coast, which had hitherto trended from N. E. to S. W. takes a sudden turn to the N. W. and forms a deep curve; after which it shoots along in a strait line to the Punta di Campanella, and the island of Capri; its extent greatly exceeds the idea I had conceived from an inspection of the maps, and has a much more dreary, naked appearance than that part which lies east of Conca. Near the cape is a rock called l'Asciola, entirely composed of a black calcareous stone, free from all mixture of marine exuviae; it seems to constitute the great internal mass of the mountains that line the shore. In the bend lies Passitano. Villages now grew scarce as we approached the main sea. When the passage of Capri began to open upon us, we steered S. W. to the Galli, supposed

supposed to be the Syrenusæ, or islands once inhabited by the Sirens, which Ulysses passed with so much caution and hazard. Great revolutions have been occasioned in their shape, size, and number, by the effects of subterranean fire; and some learned persons go so far as to assert, that these rocks have risen from the bottom of the sea since Homer sang his rhapsodies; consequently, that those monsters dwelt on some other spot, probably Sicily or Capri. The tradition of Sirens residing hereabouts is very ancient and universally admitted; but what they really were, divested of their fabulous and poetical disguise, is not easy to discover. It is remarkable, that all the islands at the points of land, which advance into the seas of Italy, were supposed to be the place of residence, or burial, of a Goddess or Siren; from which opinion we may argue, that on those promontories some female sovereign once dwelt in times of which no records are existing. As the ancient Germans and Greeks were wont to pay obedience to per-

sons of the weaker sex, it is not absurd to suppose that the old inhabitants of Italy, perhaps sprung from the same stock, were also accustomed to entrust the sceptre to the hands of a woman; the post she chose for her residence was, no doubt, strongly fortified, and well situated for her piratical subjects to dart out upon, and intercept, all vessels that navigated those seas in ages when it was impossible to sail at any considerable distance from land. Thus they may have rendered themselves formidable to mankind by violence and martial exploits; but it is more natural to vest the power of the Sirens in the arts and corruptions of peace, and more consonant to the idea generally entertained of them. The sweet retreats that abound in the Surrentine peninsula, the enchanting prospects, the plenty of all the necessaries, and even luxuries of life, and the soft temperature of the climate could not fail of attracting strangers: there they must insensibly have acquired a relish for pleasure and indolence that enervated both their bodies and  
minds,



minds, and rendered every other country odious to them. Perhaps, in very remote ages, when Italy was possessed by nations whose very names are now unknown, there was a period of wealth, elegance, refinement, and learning, succeeded by ages of barbarism, that have effaced all remembrance of it: the subjects of the Sirens may then have excelled in arts and sciences. Their interest and policy might make them superlatively ingenious and industrious in enticing foreigners to their abodes, and equally expert in tainting their rude minds with vice and effeminacy. We have almost certain authority, that Learning flourished in this part of Europe before the Trojan war, but it was probably in the hands of the priests; the ancient rites practised on the banks of the Avernan lake corroborate this opinion; superstition, thus called in to the assistance of vice must have been irresistible, and made it dangerous indeed for an adventurer to land at any port on this coast.

These islands are five in number ; on the largest is a watch-tower, and the next has a deserted hermitage. We went ashore on the principal one in a cove formed by a crack in the great mass of rocks ; a crowd of fishermen were come in to dine and dry their nets. The island is only a narrow semicircular ridge covered with a shallow coat of soil ; two other little islands and some jagged rocks, just peeping above the waves, correspond with this one so as to trace the outline of a volcanical crater. The composition of them all is at top a calcareous rock extremely shaken, tumbled and confused, mixed with masses of breccia, disposed in a most irregular manner ; below these is lava ; and the deeper the eye follows it, the stronger are the marks of fire ; below the surface of the water, and in some places above it, the layers are complete blocks of basalt. Hence it is fair to presume, that central fires have heaved up to light the torrifed substances that originally lay near their focus,

with

with all the intermediate strata that covered them from the sea. The layers incline downwards from east to west; the air seems to have forced its way into part of the mass while in fusion, and by checking its workings caused many large caverns to be left in it. These islands are uncultivated and uninhabited since the old hermit of St. Antonio died. Myrtle covers most of the surface; but I think figs and capers, of which some plants have sprung up in the crevices of the rock, would grow well here, and furnish a quantity of fruit that might be exchanged for a stock of provisions sufficient to support a few families; and a cistern would contain water enough for their use.

Our pilot, who acted as cook, had provided a most plentiful supply of limpets, prawns, and red mullets, caught while I was examining the rock. The pleasure of the repast was enhanced by the wildness of the scenery.

From hence we bore away for the channel of Capri, and sailed past Donerana, the last hamlet on the south side of Cape Campanella. It is famous among mariners for being haunted by evil spirits, who have now possession of the ancient domain of those Pagan devils, the Sirens. The vines of Donerana grow between rows of *lentiscus*, the common plant that over-runs the country. The styptic qualities of this shrub are communicated to the liquor of the vine, which almost causes suffocation, when those that drink much of it lie on their backs, the usual sleeping posture of the Neapolitans. This heavy nightmare, always happening to them here, would be sufficient to frighten these ignorant people; but another circumstance increases their terror; their ears are stunned with continual hissings and rattling of pebbles rolling down upon them. The case is this: the inn stands half way up the hill, near an immense heap of stones, brought thither by a torrent; and the refuse of supper,

waic h



which is thrown out upon this heap, draws together a legion of rats who fight for the spoil. These animals make a prodigious squeaking, and in the scuffle drive the loose stones down to the water edge.

We soon doubled the Cape, and ran in four hours across the gulph to Naples.

which is shown on page 100. There  
is a figure of a man who is in the  
boat. The man is in the boat  
and is in the boat. The boat is  
in the water.

We have shown the boat and the  
man in the boat. The boat is  
in the water.

V O Y A G E

T O

S I C I L Y.

MULTA MIHI VIDENTUR ESSE DE SICILIÆ DIGNITATE,  
VETUSTATE, UTILITATE, DICENDA.

CIC. IN VERREM.

V O Y A G E

TO

S I C I L Y.

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE ISLANDS OF SICILY AND MALTA.

BY J. G. LEITCH, ESQ.

LONDON: Printed by J. G. LEITCH, at the ...



## GEOGRAPHICAL VIEW

OF THE

## KINGDOM OF SICILY,

## SECTION XXIII.

## SITUATION AND EXTENT.

**S**ICILY is an island in the Mediterranean sea, adjoining to the southern extremity of Italy, and extends from latitude 36 25, to latitude 38 25, and from longitude 12° 50, to longitude 16 5, east from London. Its greatest length 210 miles, breadth 133, circumference 90, its form triangular.

MOUN

## MOUNTAINS.

Etna, the largest volcano in Europe; Erix, or Monte S. Giuliano, Madonia, Erei, Bufamar, Monti di Peloro.

## RIVERS.

La Giaretta, Fiume falso, Belici, Fiume grande, Fiume di Lentini, Anapo, Fiume di Ragusa, F. di Naro, Platani, F. di Calatabellota, F. di S. Bartolomeo, L'Amiraglio, F. di Nifi.

## LAKES.

Biveri.

## ISLANDS.

Lampedusa, Pantellaria, Lipari, Vulcano, Saline, Ustica Alicudi, Felicudi, Panaria, Stromboli, Favagnana, Levanzo, Barrone, Cardinifi, delle femine.

NUM.

## NUMBER OF INHABITANTS.

According to the enumerations made in 1714, it contained 1,133,163 inhabitants, including 40,000 ecclesiastics, and 110,000 inhabitants of Palermo. In 1615, it contained 1,107,234. In 1505, it contained, 488,500, without reckoning the inhabitants of Palermo or Messina.

## PROVINCES.

Three, viz. Val di Noto, Val di Mazara, Val Demona. They contain 42 towns belonging to the demesne, and 310 baronial.

## GOVERNMENT.

It is governed by a viceroy, in whose absence the archbishop of Palermo is regent. The general assembly of parliament is composed of 66 archbishops, bishops, abbots and priors, which form the Bracchio Ecclesiastico. Fifty-eight princes, 27 dukes, 37 marquisses, 27 counts,

counts, 1 viscount, and 79 barons, form the militare; and the demaniale consists of forty-three representatives of free towns. Out of each braccio four deputies are chosen to conduct public business; but the viceroy, the prince of Butera, and the prætor of Palermo, are always the three first. N. B. There are many titled persons that have no seat in the assembly, viz. 62 princes, 55 dukes, 87 marquisses, 1 count, and 282 other feudatories.

#### ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT.

Three archbishopricks, and seven bishopricks.

#### A R M S.

Party per saltire Arragon and Swabia.

#### N A M E S.

Trinacria, from its three capes, Pelorus, Lilybæum, and Pachinus. Sicani, from the Sicani; and Sicily, from the Siculi, its ancient inhabitants.

#### N A M E



## NAME.

## 1. Val di Noto.

So called from its principal towns.

## EXTENT.

260 miles in circumference.

## RIVERS.

Giarretta, Gurnalunga, Lentini, S. Giuliano, Anapo, Cafibili, Abisso, Ragusa, Dirillo, Manomuzza, Salfo.

## LAKES.

Biveri.

## SEA-PORTS.

Syracuse, Augusta.

## CARICATORI.

Syracuse, Agnuni, Pozzallo, Terranova.

## MOUN.

## MOUNTAINS.

Artifino, Armellino, Catalfaro.

## PRINCIPAL PLACES.

Syracuse bishoprick.

Noto capital; Avola, Calatagerone, Lentini, Terranova, Modica, Calascibetta, Castrogiovanni, Piazza, S. Filippo, Augusta, Vizzini, Carlentini, Mineo, Aidone.

## RUINED CITIES.

Syracuse, Camerina.

## NAME.

2. Val di Mazzara.

Called from a city.

## EXTENT.

302 miles in circumference.

## RIVERS.

## RIVERS.

Belici, Platani, Naro, Calatabellota, S. Bartolomeo, Amiraglio.

## SEA-PORTS.

Palermo, Girgenti.

## CARICATORI.

Alicata, Girgenti, Siculiana, Sciacca, Mazzara, Trapani, Castelamare, Palermo, Termini, Rocella.

## MOUNTAINS.

San Giuliano, Pelegrino, Bufalmar, Bonifati, Quisquina, Cometa, S. Calogero, Monte d'Oro.

## PRINCIPAL PLACES.

Palermo, Montreale, archbishopricks.

Mazzara, Girgenti, bishopricks.

VOL. III.

S

Trapani,

Trapani, Alicati, Alcamo, Termini, Castelvetro, Marsala, Naro, Sutera, Castronovo, Corleone, Salemi, Sciacca.

### RUINED CITIES.

Agrigentum, Segesta, Selinus.

### 3. VAL DEMONA.

#### NAME.

Of uncertain etymology.

#### EXTENT.

313 miles in circumference.

#### RIVERS.

Giaretta, Nifi, Freddo, Alcantara.

#### SEA-PORTS.

Messina.

Messina, S. Alessio, Gallidoro, Taormina,  
Melazzo,



Melazzo, Patti, Brolo, Nafò, S. Marco, Aquadolce, Caronia, Tufa, Cefalu, Catania, Trizza.

### MOUNTAINS.

Ætna, Madonia, Roffo, Cannata, Sori.

### PRINCIPAL PLACES.

Messina, archbishoprick.

Catania, Cefalu, Patti, Lipari, bishopricks.

Rametta, Taorminæ, Randazzo, Melazzo, Mistretta, Jaci, Traina.

## TABLES OF SICILIAN COINS.

| GOLD COINS.                           |  | SILVER COINS.                            |          |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Piece of 6 ducats, or double ounce |  | Scudo, equal to                          | 12 taris |
| 2. Piece of three ditto, or onza      |  | Ducat - - -                              | 10       |
| 3. Piece of two ditto                 |  | Mezzo scudo -                            | 6        |
| 4. Piece of one ducat and a half.     |  | Terzo di scudo                           | 4        |
|                                       |  | Piece of three tari                      | 3        |
|                                       |  | —of 2 tari equal to the tari of Naples.  |          |
|                                       |  | The tari equal to the carlino of Naples. |          |

BRASS. Grano, equal to six Neapolitan calli or half a grano.

Mezzo-grano, equal to three calli of Naples.

Other subdivisions are seldom met with.

The ounce or onza

The scudo

The ducat

The tari

The grana

is equal to { 3 ducats or 30 taris.  
12 taris.  
10 taris.  
20 grano.  
6 piccioli.

Accounts are kept in onza, tari, and grano. Upon an average the ducat is worth forty-five pence English money.

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There are two sorts of weights used in Sicily.

## 1. Grande.

|                    |            |                                                                 |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Cantaro contains | 110 rotoli | } This cantaro is equal to 215 pounds<br>of avoirdupois weight. |
| 1 Rotolo           | 33 ounces  |                                                                 |
| 1 lb               | 12 ounces  |                                                                 |
| 1 Ounce            | 30 trapefi |                                                                 |

## 2. Common.

|                    |            |                                                              |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Cantaro contains | 100 rotoli | } This cantaro is equal to 178 pounds<br>weight avoirdupois. |
| 1 Rotolo           | 30 ounces  |                                                              |

D R Y

**DRY MEASURE—CORN.**

- 1 Salma generale contains 16 tomoli—equal to 20 Winchester bushels,  
used in measuring wheat.  
2 Salma a la grossa contains 20 tom.—equal to 24 W. bushels, used for  
barley, beans, &c.
- 

**LIQUID MEASURE—OIL.**

- 1 Caffis weighs 18 pounds avoirdupois.  
WINE. 1 Salma contains 8 quartari. 1 Quart contains 12 quartucci.
- 

**LINEAL MEASURE.**

- 12 Oncie makes 1 palmo, equal to 10 inch. 3 lines.  
8 Palmi make 1 canna, equal to 6 feet 8 inches.

A  
SHORT SKETCH  
OF THE  
HISTORY OF SICILY.

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SECTION XXIV.

I.

IT has been the custom of all Sicilian chronologists to deduce the pedigree of their nation in a regular line from Gomer, the son of Japhet, whom they suppose to have settled in Sicily very soon after the Flood; but their conjectures can throw no light on history, nor even afford satisfaction to any reasonable antiquarian curiosity. I shall therefore pass those early ages over unnoticed: the laws, manners, language and



and achievements of the people that inhabited Sicily in the infancy, or rather revival, of society, lie hidden behind an impenetrable cloud. Aborigines, Cyclops, Sicani, and Siculi, are names given to nations that occupied this country successively. Next came colonies from Greece, who seized upon the maritime parts of this fertile island abounding in harbours; the luxuriant soil supplied them with rich articles of exportation, and by commerce their numbers, wealth, and power increased in a rapid progression; while the old inhabitants, confined to the inner mountainous regions, remained in an uncivilized state. By degrees their name, race, and character became undistinguishably blended with that of their invaders.

Aristocracy prevailed at first in the Greek settlements, but soon made way for tyranny; in its turn expelled by democracy: one of the earliest destroyers of common liberty was Phalaris of Agrigentum, who reigned six hundred years before Christ; his example was contagious; a

legion of tyrants sprang up, and not a commonwealth in the island escaped the lash of an usurper. Syracuse was the most oppressed and torn to pieces by dissention, as its wealth and preponderance in the general scale held out a greater temptation than other cities to the ambition of wicked men. It requires the combined testimony of historians to enforce our belief of its wonderful prosperity, and the no less extraordinary tyranny of some of its sovereigns. These Grecian colonies attained to such excellence in arts and sciences, as emboldened them frequently to vie with the learned and ingenious in the mother country; nay, often enabled them to bear away the palm of victory; there needs no stronger proof of their literary merits than a bare recital of the names of Archimedes, Theocritus, Gorgias, and Charondas.

## II.

## CARTHAGINIANS.

But the Sicilian Greeks were not destined to enjoy the sweets of their situation without molestation. Very soon after their arrival, the inhabitants of the neighbouring coast of Africa, who had succeeded the Phœnicians in some ancient settlements on the coast, began to aspire to a share of Sicily. Carthage sent large bodies of forces at different times to establish her power in the island, and about five hundred years before the Christian æra had made herself mistress of all the western parts of it. The Siculi retained possession of the midland country, and the southern and eastern coasts were inhabited by the Greeks.

## III.

## G E L O.

About that time Gelo was chosen prince of Syracuse, on account of his virtues, which grew still more conspicuous after his exaltation; had  
the

the example he set been followed by his successors, the advantages of freedom would never have been known or wished for by the Syracusans. The qualities that endeared him, while living, to his people, rendered him, when dead, an object of veneration to their posterity; the sense of his goodness was so strongly impressed on their minds by tradition, that long after, in the very crisis of a revolution, the statues of Gelo were excepted from the general sentence of destruction pronounced against those of all later sovereigns. The Carthaginians found in him a vigorous opponent to their project of enslaving Sicily, a project invariably pursued, but never accomplished.

#### HIERO.

Hiero succeeded his brother Gelo, and, contrary to the usual progression, began his reign by a display of bad qualities. Sensible of his error, and improved by experience, he afterwards adopted more equitable measures. At his death



death the Syracusans threw off the yoke, and for sixty years revelled in all the joys of freedom. Their peace was however disturbed by the Athenians and the Carthaginians. The latter plundered Agrigentum, and threatened ruin to the rest of the Grecian states ; but a treaty of peace, averted that storm. The Athenians, under pretence of supporting their allies, the people of Segesta, but, in reality, from a thirst of dominion, invested Syracuse with a formidable land and naval armament under the command of Nicias ; in consequence of a rash indigested plan, ill-conducted attacks, and inadequate supplies, their whole host was cut to pieces, or led away into captivity.

#### DIONYSIUS THE ELDER.

Syracuse had scarcely time to breathe after her victory ere intestine wars broke out, and raised Dionysius to supreme command. Avarice, despotism, and cruelty, marked every day of his reign,

reign, but his military enterprizes were crowned with constant success. He died in peace, and bequeathed a powerful sovereignty to a son of his name,

#### DIONYSIUS THE YOUNGER,

tainted with the same and worse vices, but not endowed with equal capacity and martial ability. In such hands the rod of Tyranny ceased to be formidable, and the tyrant was driven out of Sicily by the patriotic party. But matters were not sufficiently settled for popular government, and Dionysius resumed the sceptre for a while, till Timoleon forced him into perpetual exile.

The system of legislation seemed now to be established upon a most promising basis, had not all prospects of permanent liberty in Syracuse been illusory.

#### AGATHOCLES.

Agathocles, a tyrant more inhuman than any preceding usurper, seized the throne, and deluged the country with blood. Foreign war,  
civil

civil strife, and domestic disquiets, were the constant attendants on his royalty. He was involved in a perilous contest with the Carthaginians, who obtained many advantages over him, drove his troops from post to post, and at last blocked up his capital. In this desperate situation, when all foreign helps were precluded, and hardly a resource remained at home, the genius of Agathocles compassed his deliverance by a plan that has been admired and imitated by some of the greatest generals in succeeding ages. He embarked with the flower of his army; forced his way through innumerable obstacles; landed in Africa; and, having burnt his fleet, routed the Carthaginians in a pitched battle, and laid their territory waste. Carthage seemed to be on the brink of ruin, and that hour might have marked her downfall, had the Sicilian host been composed of patriotic soldiers, and not of ungovernable assassins. Discord pervaded the victorious camp, murder and riot ensued, and the tyrant, after  
beholding

beholding his children and friends butchered before his face, escaped to Sicily, to meet a death as tragical as his crimes deserved\*.

### P Y R R H U S.

Anarchy now raged throughout the island, and every faction was reduced to the necessity of calling in the assistance of foreign powers; among whom, Pyrrhus, king of Epire took, the lead, and reduced all parties to some degree of order and obedience. Ambition soon prompted

\* From the following passage in the *Menæchmi* of Plautus, it seems that we ought to place Phintia and Liparo among the Kings of Syracuse, between Agathocles and Hiero the Second.

Non ego te novi Menæchmum Moscho progenerum patre,  
Qui Syracusis perhibere natus esse in Siciliâ,  
Ubi Rex Agathocles regnator fuit; et iterum *Pinthia*;  
*Tertium Liparo* qui in morte regnum Hieroni tradidit,  
Nunc Hiero est.

We have many brass coins of Pinthia; but he is generally supposed to have been a tyrant of Gela.

him



him to invade those rights he came to defend; he cast off the mask, and made Sicily feel under his sway as heavy a hand as that of its former oppressors; but the Sicilians soon assumed courage and strength enough to drive him out of the island.

## IV.

## ROMANS.

About this period, a crew of miscreants, called Mamertines, surpris'd Messina, and after a general massacre of the citizens, established a republican form of government; their commonwealth became so troublesome a neighbour to the Greeks, that

## HIERO THE SECOND,

who had been rais'd to the chief command at Syracuse in consideration of his superior wisdom and warlike talents, found himself necessitated to form a league with Carthage, in order to destroy this nest of villains. In their distress  
the

the Mamertines implored the assistance of Rome, though the senate had recently punished with exemplary severity one of their own legions for a similar outrage committed at Rhegium. The virtue of the Romans gave way to the temptation, and the desire of extending their empire beyond the limits of Italy cast a veil over every odious circumstance attending this alliance. A Roman army crossed the Faro, relieved Messina, defeated the Carthaginians, and humbled Hiero into an ally of the republic.

### FIRST PUNIC WAR.

Thus began the first Punic war, which was carried on for many years in Sicily with various success. The genius of Hamilcar Barcas supported the African cause under numberless disappointments, and the repeated overthrows of his colleagues; at last, finding his exertions ineffectual, he advised the Carthaginian rulers to purchase peace at the price of Sicily. Such a treaty

treaty was not likely to be observed longer than want of strength should curb the animosity of the vanquished party.

## SECOND PUNIC WAR.

When their vigour was recruited, Hannibal, son of Hamilcar, easily persuaded them to resume the contest, and for sixteen years waged war in the heart of the Roman territories. Mean while, Hiero conducted himself with so much prudence, that he retained the friendship of both parties, and preserved his portion of Sicily in perfect tranquillity. He died, in extreme old age, beloved and respected both at home and abroad.

## HIERONYMUS.

His grandson Hieronymus, forsaking this happy line of politicks, and contracting an alliance with Carthage, fell an early victim to the troubles his own folly had excited. Once more, and for the last time, the Syracusans found themselves in possession of their independence, but the times were no longer suited to such a

system; dissensions gained a head, and distracted the public councils. Carthage could not support them, or prevent Marcellus from undertaking the siege of Syracuse, immortalized by the mechanical efforts of Archimedes, and the immensity of the plunder.

## V.

From henceforward the Sicilians relinquished all martial ideas, and during a long series of generations turned their attention solely to the arts of peace and the labours of agriculture: Their position in the centre of the empire preserved them both from civil and foreign foes, except in two instances of a servile war. The rapacity of their governors was a more constant and insupportable evil. In this state of apathy and opulence Sicily remained down to the seventh century of our æra, when the Saracens began to disturb its tranquillity. The barbarous nations of the north had before invaded and ravaged its coasts, but had not long kept possession. The Saracens were more fortunate.

## VI.



## VI.

## SARACENS.

In 827 they availed themselves of quarrels among the Sicilians, to subdue the country. Palermo was chosen for their capital; and the standard of Mahomet triumphed about two hundred years. In 1038 George Maniaces was sent by the Greek emperor with a great army to attack Sicily. He made good his landing, and pushed his conquests with vigour; his success arose from the valour of some Norman troops, which were at that time unemployed, and ready to sell their services to the best bidder. Maniaces repaid them with ingratitude, and by his absurd conduct gave the Mussulmen time to breathe, and the Normans a pretext and opportunity of invading the Imperial dominions in Italy. Robert and Roger of Hauteville afterwards conquered Sicily on their own account, not as mercenaries; for, having substantially settled their power on the continent, they turned their arms against this island in obedience to the dictates of

zeal and ambition. After a ten years struggle, the Saracens yielded up in 1072 the rich prize, and Robert ceded it to his brother Roger, who assumed the title of Great Earl of Sicily.

## VII.

## NORMANS.

## ROGER, FIRST EARL.

This first sovereign ruled the state with wisdom and glory, and ranks deservedly among the greatest characters in history. He raised himself from the humble station of a poor, younger son of a private gentleman, to the exalted dignity of a powerful monarch: by the sole force of his own genius and courage, he governed a nation of strangers with vigour and justice, and transmitted his possessions undisputed to his posterity. Such an assemblage of great qualities is well entitled to our admiration.

## SIMON.

He was succeeded by his son Simon, whose  
reign

reign was short, and made way for a second son called

ROGER, FIRST KING.

VIII.

In 1127, this prince joined to his Sicilian possessions the whole inheritance of Robert Guiscard; and assumed the regal style. The greatest part of his reign was taken up in quelling revolts in Italy, but Sicily enjoyed profound peace.

WILLIAM I.

In 1154 his son William ascended the throne, and passed his life in war and confusion.

WILLIAM II.

William the Second succeeded his father, and died without issue.

TANCRED.

Tancred, though basely born, was elected to succeed him; and, after him, his son

WILLIAM III.

who was vanquished by Henry of Swabia.

## IX.

## GERMANS.

## FREDERICK I.

During the troubles that agitated the reign of his son, the emperor Frederick, peace appears to have been the lot of Sicily. A short-lived sedition, and a revolt of the Saracens, are the only commotions I read of. For greater security, the Saracens were removed to Puglia, four hundred years after the conquest of Sicily by their ancestors.

## CONRAD.—MANFRED.

Under Conrad and Manfred Sicily remained quiet.



## X.

## FRENCH.

## CHARLES.

After the battle of Benevento these islands submitted to Charles of Anjou, and for several years obeyed him with a servility equivalent to downright slavery, notwithstanding the wanton cruelty with which they were treated. But a day of retribution came at last: Charles, naturally of a severe temper, and exclusively attached to men of the military profession, was apt to look upon the other classes of his subjects with contempt, and leave them a prey to his soldiers, against whom no complaints were admitted. With so decided a protection, his officers gave a loose to every passion, and for twelve years Sicily was ravaged by as many tyrants as it contained Frenchmen: no redress could be obtained; no man would stand forth as an advocate; not a

hope was left of future indulgence. Is it a wonder then that such horrible oppression should urge a vindictive people to their last appeal—a dagger? John of Procida, with the connivance of the Greek emperor, and the king of Arragon, son-in-law to king Manfred, encouraged the growing ferment, till he had worked up the minds of the Sicilians to a proper pitch. On Easter Monday, 1282, the Palermitans rose and slew every Provençal they could find. Their example was instantaneously followed by the whole island, and the proscription completed. No pardon could be expected from Charles, therefore the insurgents offered their crown to

#### PETER I.

king of Arragon, who accepted and defended it against all the efforts of his antagonist, and the tremendous thunders of the Vatican.

## XI.

## JAMES

in 1285 succeeded his father Peter, and with the help of Roger Lauria, the best seaman of the age, kept possession. On the death of an elder brother he became king of Arragon, and from scruple intended to restore Sicily to the king of Naples; but the desperate islanders elected a third brother,

## FREDERICK II.

whose intrepidity and prudence amply justified the propriety of their choice. During a period of forty-one years he maintained his ground without allies or resources, except what he drew from his own genius, and the steady hatred his subjects bore to their former governors. He died in 1337, revered and lamented, leaving a flourishing kingdom to his son

## PETER II.

But it is only in long-established monarchies, where the wheels of government have acquired  
by

by use a spontaneous mechanical motion, that a difference of talents in princes makes no very essential change in the political system. In so new and so precarious a government as that of Sicily, the loss of this wise and resolute master was soon felt. The great vassals of the crown, who had bowed with awe before the vigorous spirit of Frederick, raised up their heads the moment the sceptre passed into weaker hands. To add to the distresses of internal troubles, the island was invaded by the Neapolitans, and thus surrounded with danger, Peter breathed his last. The crown in 1342 devolved upon his infant child

L E W I S,

whose reign was a series of misfortunes. Happily for him the hereditary enemies of his house were so hampered with dissensions at home, that they had no time to take advantage of his distress. His uncle John ruled, during some years of his minority, with great steadiness, but after his decease, various factions seized the reins by turns. Lewis died in 1355, in the flower of his age.

F R E-



## FREDERICK III.

succeeded his brother, and was no better than a phantom of royalty, without talents or authority. He left an only daughter,

## M A R Y,

acknowledged as queen, but deprived of all power by the seditious baronage. She escaped to Spain, and there married her cousin,

## M A R T I N I.

with whom she returned to Sicily. The appearance of the royal pair operated a speedy change, but it could not be completed without a violent struggle. Mary died without issue, in 1402, and left her husband to reign alone. Martin, whose noble spirit had endeared him to the Sicilians, died in 1409, and his father,

## M A R T I N II.

to whom the crown reverted, did not survive him above a year. With him the line of Arragon became extinct, and all its kingdoms fell to the lot of

FER-

## FERDINAND I. OF CASTILLE.

## XII.

who, by a most unparalleled arbitration, was raised to the throne in preference to eight competitors.

While this award was in agitation, Sicily was thrown into great confusion by some restless leaders; but every thing was soon brought to proper obedience by the firm and just administration of the new king.

## ALPHONSUS

the Magnificent succeeded his father, and added Naples to his other dominions: the wars that attended this acquisition had little effect upon Sicily, nor was its peace much disturbed under a succession of viceroys. On the death of this great prince, in 1458, Sicily was inherited by his brother,

JOHN

## J O H N, KING OF NAVARRE.

From this period, the history of Sicily becomes barren of events, and uninteresting, as it was never involved in any of the wars that afflicted Italy. The monarchs seldom visited this distant province, where viceroys have ever since presided. Under Ferdinand the Catholic, and

## XIII.

The princes of Austria, nothing material occurs, except the rebellion of the Messinese against Charles the Second. At the death of this prince, his spoils became an object of furious contention; and at the peace of Utrecht,

## XIV.

Sicily was ceded to Victor, duke of Savoy. Not many years after, the emperor Charles the Sixth forced him to relinquish this fine island, and take that of Sardinia as an equivalent. But as the Spaniards had had no concern in these bargains, they made a sudden attempt to recover Sicily; in which they failed, through the  
vigilance

vigilance of the English admiral Byng. He destroyed their fleet in 1718, and compelled them to drop their scheme for a time.

## XV.

In 1734, the Spanish court resumed their design with success. The infant Don Carlos drove the Germans out, and was crowned king of the Two Sicilies at Palermo. When he passed into Spain, to take possession of that crown, he transferred the Sicilian diadem to his son Ferdinand the Third of Sicily, and Fourth of Naples.

VOYAGE



V O Y A G E  
 TO  
 S I C I L Y.

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SECTION XXV.

**E**ARLY in December I resumed my project of visiting Sicily, which a combination of circumstances had defeated the preceding summer. An excursion even in winter could not be formidable in so southern a latitude ; nor was it a small inducement to think that I should be less molested by insects of all sorts ; that the ruins would be more visible and accessible while the shrubs and brambles that envelope them were leafless,

leafless, than when covered with thick foliage; and that I should see this celebrated island at a different season from that in which most travellers have visited it. I provided myself with the conveniences I thought desirable in a country of poor accommodations, and was favoured with a load of recommendatory letters. I had afterwards little occasion for the former, and except two of the recommendations, the whole packet was useless.

In the evening of the 8th of December, 1777, I sailed from Naples in a French ship. We left the port with a very faint breeze, and made little way during the whole night, which was delightfully pleasant, with a bright moon, and mild temperature of air. By day-break we were but a mile south of Capri; its appearance on that aspect is remarkably wild and rugged; its bold towering cliffs are opposed to the tremendous seas that roll up till then unchecked from the Streights of Gibraltar; but, meeting here with an immoveable barrier, flow afterwards  
in

in gentle swells into the gulf of Naples; on which side alone Capri displays its elegant beauties.

With great varieties of calms and brisk gales from the N. E. we came in the morning of the 10th in sight of the Sicilian coast, having the Liparean isles of \* Alicudi and † Felicudi thirty miles to the windward, and the island of Ustica about twenty on the other quarter. Ustica is small, and not much elevated above the sea; it has two eminences, between which a town and fort have lately been erected, and about eight hundred inhabitants settled to prevent Barbary rovers from making it a place of rendezvous. While it remained desolate, those pirates were

\* Anciently Ericusa, from being covered with heath, and Phœnicusa, from the abundance of palm-trees, or rather palmettos.

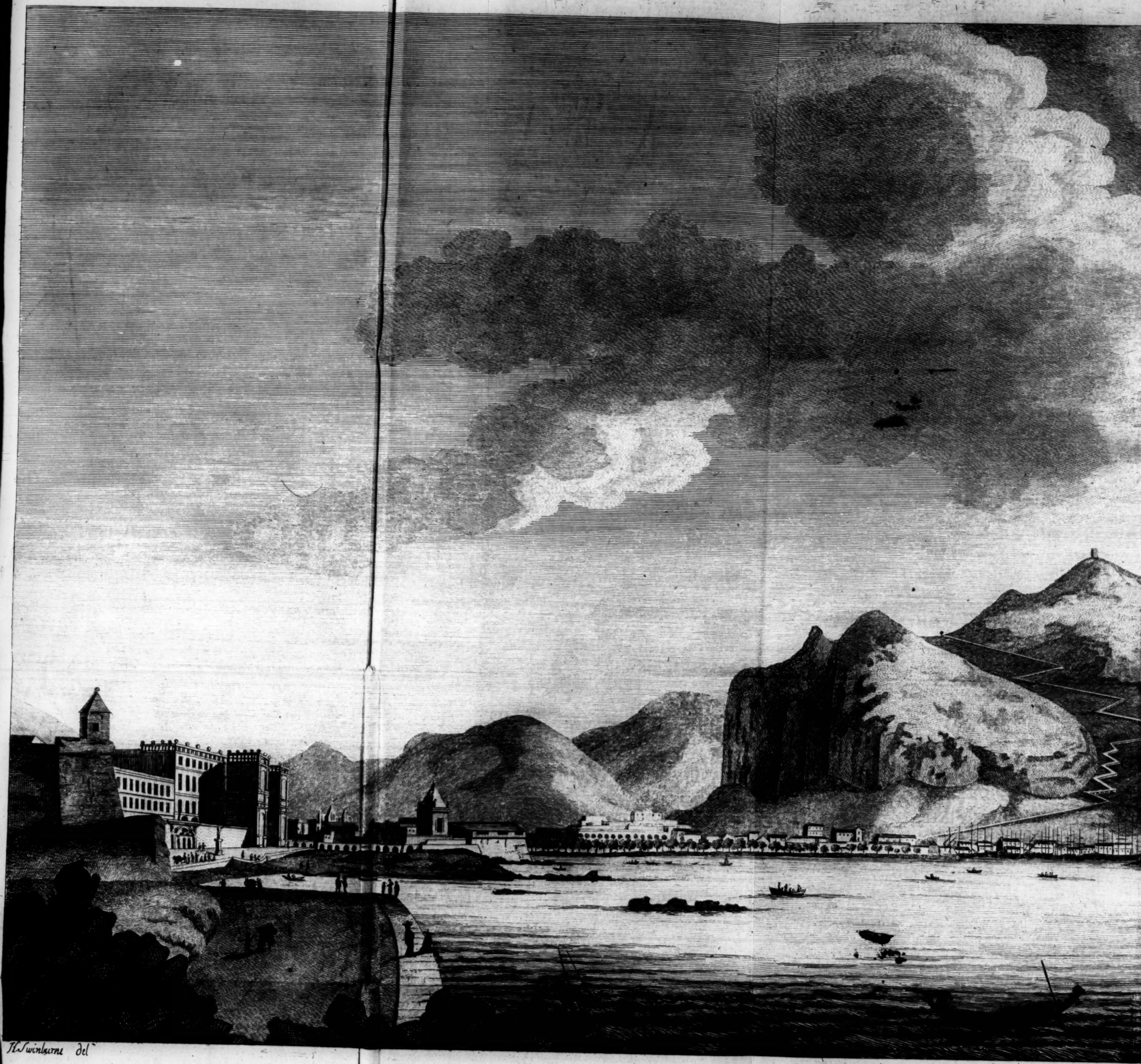
† Anciently the same name. Some ages ago it was well inhabited, and the ruins of a church still remain; but the frequent attacks of the Corsairs obliged its inhabitants to abandon it.

went to lie hidden under its shore till a proper opportunity offered of darting out upon some unsuspecting vessel, or of making an attack upon the northern coasts of Sicily. The two other islands rise like cones out of the water, a proof of their volcanic origin.

We here met with contrary winds, gloomy weather, and a very rough sea that tossed us about two days and one night; at length a smart breeze sprang up, and carried us into the harbour of Palermo, a few minutes before a storm arose that would infallibly have driven us off, and probably buffeted us about many days; a shoal of fishes was leaping and playing at the entrance of the bay when the rain began. The extreme haziness of the weather precluded all view of the city and port, a sight I much regretted, having built great expectations of delight upon the high-painted descriptions I had read of it. When we were admitted to *prattica*\*, my books were

\* *Prattica* means that the ship is found to be healthy, and therefore admissible.



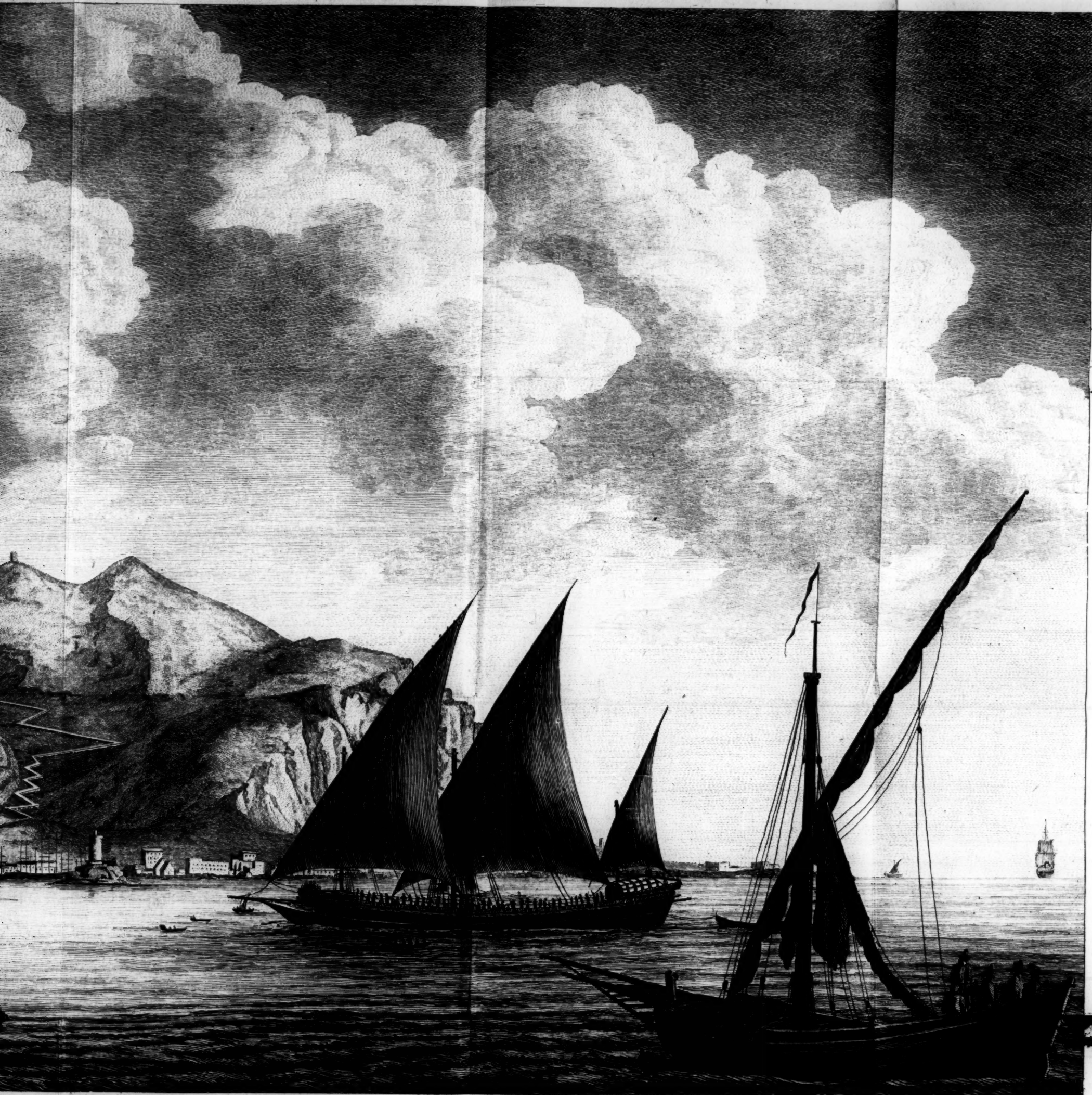


H. Swinburne del.

*View of the* **PORT** *of* **L**

Publsh'd according to Act of Parliament, Nov<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>





# PALE R M O .

, Nov<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1784, by P. Elmsly, Strand.

carried to the inquisition, and returned to me in the evening for the fee of two taris.

I took the earliest opportunity of paying visits, and delivering the letters I had brought from Naples to the principal people of the Sicilian metropolis. Most of these recommendations came from persons of such rank, and such connections with those they were addressed to, that I entertained the firmest confidence of meeting with an agreeable reception in a city renowned for its civility to foreigners; but I was deceived in the flattering prospect; few of my visits were returned: no notice taken of the letters I presented; no civilities shewn, or a single invitation given me to break bread under a Sicilian roof.\*

I can

\* I have since discovered, that the cause of this general flight was the appearance at Palermo of a French translation of Mr. Brydone's tour. The Palermitan nobility thought themselves so ill treated by that author, that they determined to shut their doors for the future upon all English



I can only make two exceptions to this universal coolness ; one was that learned antiquary, prince Lancellotti of Torremuza, who paid great attention to my recommendatory introduction, and wasted more of his time in my company than I had a right to expect from a man of his studious turn, loaded moreover with the superintendency of the public schools. The other was Monsignor Severino of Naples, archbishop of the united sees of Palermo and Montreale, whose evenness of temper, and affability, shew how easily the heavy duties of the charge fit upon a person that fulfils them with regularity and resolution.

I was happy in enjoying his conversation almost every evening during my stay in the city, and owe to his care all the comforts and hospitality I received in the island. I cannot place in the class of civilities the permission granted to travellers, and thus screen their character and foibles from the eye of criticism.



me by the viceroy (prince of Stigliano), of mixing with the crowd on his public nights. I had no opportunity of acquiring any insight into the character or manners of the inhabitants, and this must plead my excuse with the reader for my total silence on that head.

## SECTION XXVII

U 3

PALERMO

## P A L E R M O.

## SECTION XXVI.

**T**HE retirement in which I lived at Palermo was rendered doubly irksome by incessant rains that confined me great part of the time to my apartment. I seized every hour of fair weather with eagerness to roam about the town and country, in order to acquire an idea of the outside of the houses, at least, since I was debarred access to the inside. My observations shall be comprised in a small compass, to satisfy the curiosity of my readers without fatiguing their attention.

\* It

\* It is not possible to decide whether Palermo owed its rise to an union of the ancient primordial inhabitants of Sicily, to Phœnician traders, to Grecian emigrants, or to the Carthaginians.

Its

\* A great variety of coins were struck at Palermo under its different masters; but as it seems never to have been an independent state, I shall only exhibit a few specimens of its several types.

Nummi Panormitanorum.

Ex Auro.

1. Caput muliebre—lyra cum siglâ  $\overline{AP}$

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. Jovis—Aquila  $\overline{IAN}$ .

2. Cap. mul. spicis cor.—Caput Medusæ et symbolum Trinacriæ  $\overline{IANOPMITAN}$ .

Ex Ære.

1. Fig. vir. ft. hast. t.  $\overline{KAPT IAN}$ —Cap. Equi cum habenâ XIII.

2. Cap. Jovis—Aquila capite conv. fulm. ten.  $\overline{IANOPMITAN}$ .

3. Cap. Cereris vel—Cap. Medusæ cum symb. Trin.  $\overline{IANOPMITAN}$ .

4. Cap. vir. symb. Trin.  $\overline{SICILIAE}$ —Aratrum  $\overline{PANORMI}$ .

U 4

5. Cruz

Its name seems Greek; but as we are ignorant how it was called in the oriental tongue, it may be suspected that Panormus is but a translation from that language. It was one of the three stations reserved by the Phœnicians, when the frequent arrival of Greek colonies made it unsafe for them to dwell in small factories along the coasts. Till the 494th year of Rome it remained in the possession of Carthage; it was then surrendered to the Romans, who, as long as their empire subsisted, had reason to applaud the fidelity and attachment of its inhabitants. They submitted patiently to the great changes that afflicted the Roman republic and empire down

5. Crux PANORMI VRBIS—Aquila REGNI SECILIE.

6. Cap. Augusti PANOPMITAN—Tria crura.

7. Cap. Cereris OMONOIA—Cornucopiæ PANOPMITAN.

8. Cap. vir. PANORMITANORVM—Cap. mul. spic. coron. AVGVS.

9. Cap. Jovis—Templum columnis fultum PAN. E. D.



to the year of Christ 821, when it was taken by the Saracens, but soon abandoned, as they were not yet sufficiently powerful in the island to maintain their ground. Eight years afterwards, their conquest being effectually secured, Palermo became the metropolis, and flourished two hundred years in barbaric splendour. Robert Guiscard and his brother Roger took it from the infidels in 1071, and made it the seat of empire.

As long as the sovereign of Sicily resided in the island, Palermo enjoyed the advantages attendant on the royal presence; since they have absented themselves from it, that of their viceroy has faintly supplied the deficiency.

The first clear day gave me a desire of viewing Palermo from the sea; on which side it exhibits a most noble spectacle. Its extensive bay is confined by a circle of mountains of various elevations and forms; and the steeples, cupolas, and towers of the city rise in the plain that extends from their foot, and lines the shore. Towards the west, a thick grove spreads along the beach

to the port and lighthouse, where a forest of masts hides the base of the huge insulated rock, called Monte Pellegrino. On the east side a reach of well-cultivated grounds ascends gradually to cape Azafran that shuts in the gulf.

The harbour is very dangerously open to the swell and sea from the N. E. quarter; and even at the anchoring place ships lie in peril whenever a westerly wind blows, as it rushes with great impetuosity through the valley of Colli, between the mountains. In former times the haven was within the town, composed of two long creeks, about 100 paces broad, and shut up with a boom. They were sufficiently capacious for the slight tonnage then in use, but about the year 1520 were choaked with sand thrown in by the sea, or washed down by rain; and as there appeared to be no possibility of restoring a proper depth of water, they were quite filled up, and built upon.

Palermo is walled round almost in a circular form, and is said to contain above an hundred  
and

and two thousand souls, exclusive of ecclesiasticks of both sexes, and of all officers and servants belonging to the crown, the church, and the magistracy \*. It is divided into four parts by two streets that intersect each other at right angles; these are decorated with statues, fountains, and buildings that present the idea of a royal city; but most of the other streets are narrow and crooked, and being wretchedly paved, are buried in dirt during the winter. Palermo is well-lighted with reverberating lamps, and in wet weather moveable wooden bridges are provided for crossing the kennels, which then become rapid torrents. There are no hackney-coaches; the carriages let out for hire, as well as those commonly used by the nobility, are antique inconvenient vehicles, drawn by mules. In summer, and on festivals, coaches of greater elegance make their appearance. The most shewy of the

\* Amico in his Lexicon, printed in 1759, says, that Palermo contained 114,131 inhabitants in 1595—111,818 in 1653—and 102,106 in 1713.

two principal streets is called Il Caffaro\*; the other La Nova. At the point of intersection is a small octagon area, embellished with statues of the seasons so short in their proportions, that I took them for busts. Above each is a figure of a Spanish monarch executed in a better taste, and over these, in due gradation, are placed heads of saints. Near this opening is a square formed by the senate-house, and some large convents. The centre is crowded with a fountain calculated for a much more ample space, and consequently seen to great disadvantage.

The Caffaro is terminated on the north by the Porta Felice, a triumphal arch opening to the Marina, a handsome quay, whither in summer nights the inhabitants resort to enjoy the fanning breeze, take refreshments, and listen to the serenades that enliven the still hour. The other extremity joins a large square before the cathedral, a Gothic edifice, built in 1185 by Arch-

\* From the Arabic Kasar, a palace, to which it leads.



bishop Walter, which now threatens ruin; its architecture is not the most pleasing of that style; for at the time of the erection of this church it had not attained the elegant lightness and delicacy of ornament, which soon after distinguished it, and produced considerable beauty, notwithstanding a total deviation from all the chaste proportions of the Grecian art. The whole pile is in a tottering condition, and calls for speedy assistance; a plan for rebuilding great part of it has been given in by M. Fuga, the King's architect, who proposes to raise a cupola, and refit it entirely in the modern taste. The choir ends in a horse-shoe arch, decorated in latter times by Gagini, the best of the Sicilian sculptors, with statues and arabesques executed in a taste which unfortunately jars with the general costume of the place, and would have produced a noble effect in any edifice where it was more in unison with that of the other decorations.

The eastern isle contains several tombs of sovereigns; four are of porphyry under canopies of  
the

the same beautiful materials, borne by columns that seem to appertain to no known order of architecture; on the canopies are placed the names and arms of each prince, with an inscription of later date full of untruths, composed in 1538 by Roger Paruta, a canon of this cathedral. The armorial coat given by the sons of Tancred of Hauteville, as blazoned on these monuments and stamped on their coins, was azure, a bend checkee, argent and gules.

At the foot of the altar rests the heroic Earl Roger, the conqueror of Sicily, and the terror of infidels.

The tabernacle at the head of this isle, is one of the finest collections of lapis lazuli I ever saw.

## SECTION XXVII.

**M**OST of the churches are rich in silver, gems, and marble, but their style of building and decoration is infinitely more barbarous and unpleasant to the eye of a person capable of tasting the genuine beauties of good architecture, than all the extravagances of monkish and Saracenic artists: in several, the walls within are lined with red or yellow marble, upon which ground from the cieling to the floor, are glued basso-relievo figures of angels, beasts, and flowers in white marble; nothing can be more harsh and unharmonious than this mode of adorning; it has as bad an effect as cut paper pasted on a painted board. A few churches are exceptions to this general criticism, and among them the most perfect is that lately belonging to the Jesuits; its cupola is painted by Sicilian masters  
of

of great merit ; but there is some degree of affectation in the attitudes of their figures, and errors in the perspective.

Palermo is crowded with statues of sovereigns and tutelar saints, most of them done by unskilful hands, and placed in small courts and squares upon pedestals of colossal proportion and tasteless form. The profusion of marbles displayed throughout the city would render it truly magnificent, were the design, according to which they are employed, equal to the materials ; the contrary is the case in general. I was however much struck with the interior court of one house, which is surrounded by a colonnade of red marble, approaching in grain and colour to the Rosso Antico. Few public or private buildings exhibit any traces of true noble architecture ; a vicious taste prevails, resembling that which predominated in Spain after the death of the great men that flourished under Charles the Fifth and Philip the Second.

The



The viceroy's palace, which stands near the south gate, is an immense mass of discordant parts built at different periods. Fragments of Arabic building join towers of Norman construction; to which additions have been made in every subsequent century. The halls are of a noble size, and well calculated for great assemblies; the courts of justice are held on the ground-floor, and batteries of cannon defend the approach. They have been employed for that purpose in the numberless revolts of the Palermitans, but were of little avail in the last insurrection.

In the year 1771, the post of prætor, or supreme municipal magistrate, was filled by the prince of Cassaro, a man of plain good sense and patriotic views; he executed the trust reposed in him with a shew of sincere attachment to the interests of his fellow-citizens, entered with great humanity into all their sufferings, and administered justice, as far as depended upon his influence, with promptitude and impartiality.

Whatever might be his private motives (for these, as may well be imagined, have been placed in various lights), his ambition of becoming popular, or his sentiments of patriotism, were fully gratified by the consideration and esteem which he acquired. The inferior class of people soon began to look up to him as to a protector and a father; some instances of his strict attention to justice worked up their love to enthusiastic veneration.

While Cassaro was thus advancing rapidly in the paths of popularity, unforeseen events combined to give his progress double vigour. The irregularity of the weather and bad appearance of the crops on the ground having raised great apprehensions of a very scanty harvest, and consequently of a scarcity of corn, or, at least, a great advance in the value, the Senate of Palermo came to the wise resolution of laying in a quantity of old corn sufficient for the consumption of the city, while it yet bore a moderate price. This project was obstructed by a very formidable

midable difficulty, the want of funds to purchase with: to procure them, no better way could be devised than an application to the viceroy, the marquis Foliani, for a loan of such sums as lay in the treasury, arising from the sale of effects belonging to the Jesuits. The viceroy not thinking himself authorized to appropriate that money to any uses whatever without the king's orders, and moreover, not being satisfied with the security the corporation had offered for the reimbursement, refused the required supply. Upon receiving this answer, Cassaro raised the money on his own credit, purchased the corn, and stood all the risks and losses of the advance. He was now extolled by the people as their benefactor, their saviour, their *tata* or father; but he lived a very short time to enjoy the sweets of his popularity. He had long laboured under a variety of infirmities, among which the most violent was the stone; this cruel disorder, perhaps irritated by his late extraordinary exertions, increased to such a degree, that it was judged

absolutely necessary for him to have the stone extracted; unfortunately the viceroy's surgeon was chosen for this purpose. The operation was skilfully performed; but the patient's strength being unequal to the shock, death became inevitable. His danger was no sooner known than the mob flew to the churches, seized every saint's bust, statue, or relick that had the least reputation for miraculous powers, and brought them in solemn procession to the senate house, where they placed them in a row, and then in profound silence with their tears implored the intercession of the celestial host for the recovery of their favourite magistrate. When no signs of help appeared from these mediators, the populace in crowds, their feet bare, their heads covered with sackcloth and ashes, went up Monte Pellegrino to the shrine of Saint Rosalia, but returned without obtaining their boon, for the Prætor died. And now devotion turned to rage; seditious outcries succeeded pious ejaculations; and the furious mob ran to the palace, snatched the  
firelock



firelock out of the centinel's hands, stuck a loaf of bread upon the bayonet, and paraded the streets, crying, "Tata is gone, we shall have no more of this good bread." The insurgents believed, or pretended to believe, that the viceroy had caused Cassaro to be murdered by his surgeon, and that he was in a combination with the nobility to starve the poor citizens. These ideas gaining universal credit, the rioters proceeded to break open the prison doors, release the culprits, and burn the prisons; several houses of noblemen and financiers were devoted to the flames, and a general confusion reigned. The populace next placed a man astride upon a cannon, with the king's picture before him, and thus drew him about the streets, while another fellow brandished a lighted torch over the touch-hole; the crowd crying furiously as they went, "Viva lou Rey muora stou ladro \*."

The archbishop and some popular noblemen entreated, harangued, and pressed every possible

\* Long live the King, and perish this thief.

argument upon the rioters without success; one deafening clamour overpowered their voices, and the banishment of the viceroy was insisted upon from all quarters, as the previous condition without which they would lend ear to no agreement. The marquis, seeing it in vain to resist, left his palace: the triumphant mob forced him to pass through the heart of the town amidst a thousand indignities; his ears stunned with the most opprobrious epithets, and his eyes offended with the sight of bonfires made in the streets with furniture and goods torn from the dwellings of his friends and adherents. After undergoing this mortifying ordeal, he was suffered to reach the port, where he embarked in a charcoal barge, and, without provisions or change of cloaths, made the best of his way to Cefalu.

Intoxicated with their victory over government, the revolvers broke through all bounds; the property of the rich was plundered or burnt, victuals were seized and consumed unpaid for, and every sturdy villain appropriated to his own

use

use whatever came in his way that suited his purpose. Universal anarchy prevailed, though a junto of the most active among the factious attempted to assert a kind of authority over the populace; they devised plans for destroying the nobility and officers of the revenue, and assuming to themselves the power and titles of viceroy, prætor, captain of justice, &c. these high offices were to be filled by a thieftaker, a barber, and a shoemaker; and, in the hour of madness, they pleased themselves with the idea that they should frighten the king into a confirmation of their authority. These dreams were not of long duration; for, after lawless riot had reigned uninterrupted for four days and as many nights, the *maestranza*, or companies of tradesmen and artificers, who now began to dread its consequences, and apprehend ruin to themselves, seized the ringleaders of the insurgents, and consigned them to public justice. The magistrates caused them to be immediately strangled and their heads hung out *ad terrorem*; some

hundreds of the most desperate among the seditious were secretly taken off, a strong body of troops introduced, a new viceroy sent, and in a few months government restored to the full possession of its former power.

#### SECTION XXVIII.

THE assemblies at the viceroy's palace gave me an opportunity of seeing the whole corps of nobility collected together; the men are rather a comely race, but the ladies are little favoured by nature. Two girls under eight years of age, heiresses of great families, and already betrothed, made their appearance in the ball-room, decked out in the very excess of the mode; their shewy dresses, diminutive size, and affected gravity in dancing their minuet, joined to the fatherly care their future husbands anxiously took of them, put me in mind of dolls  
7 that



that are made to move round a table by clock-work.

In the streets the women hide their heads in black veils, a custom I thought borrowed from the Spaniards, who were so long in possession of Sicily; but I have since been informed that it is a very ancient mode of dress in the island, and in use long before any connection with Spain existed\*.

The viceroy affects in every thing the pageantry of royalty; his train of coaches is splendid; a strong well-dressed body of guards attends his person, and, on parade days, his coachmen, postillions, and livery servants are dressed in flowing wigs, without hats. When he goes to church, he receives the tribute of a cloud of incense, and he alone, with great solemnity, puts on his hat. On the twenty-first of December, he makes an

\* As this dress unites convenience with œconomy, it has lately been introduced into Naples, where it has grown very fashionable.

annual visit to the jails, where he has the power of pardoning and releasing as many prisoners as he pleases. All law is that day dormant, and, although the judges and magistrates have a right to remonstrate, he is under no obligation of following their advice. Viceroy's generally use this prerogative very cautiously, and, if they absolve a criminal, it is after mature deliberation, and upon a report from the judges. The duke de la Vieuville, a choleric old soldier, happened to take offence at some doubts being expressed concerning the extent of this act of grace, and therefore to shew his power in full force, ordered the prison doors to be thrown open, and all those confined within to be set at liberty.

I saw no considerable Roman or Greek antiquities in Palermo. The smaller memorials of ancient grandeur, which chance has brought to light, and a revival of good taste happily preserved, are collected together in one museum, in the great college lately directed by the Jesuits.

Those

Those fathers, being aware of their impending fate, secreted their most valuable moveables, and stripped the gallery of every article of precious materials or excellent workmanship; their rich collection of medals and cameos was carried off, but enough still remains in the fossil and mineral branch to lay the foundations of a noble cabinet of natural history.

The college is at present under the inspection of the prince of Torremuza, whose deep erudition, steadiness of character, and solid judgment, qualify him admirably for such a trust. He informed me that the king had in contemplation a plan for educating an hundred young gentlemen *gratis* upon the funds of the late Jesuits.

There was once a well-stocked botanical garden at Miselmeri, belonging to the prince of La Catholica, whence its catalogue was entitled Hortus Catholicus. The account, perhaps erroneous, which I received of its being now much neglected, deterred me from visiting it.

The

The town ditches produce great abundance of the *Ricinus Palma Christi* \*, from which plant castor oil is extracted in the West Indies; the same excellent physic might be obtained from that of Sicilian growth, for the experiment has been tried with success by Don Domenico Cyrillo, a Neapolitan physician of great eminence.

\* *Linnæi Monæica Monadelphia.* 1085.



## E N V I R O N S

O F

## P A L E R M O.

## SECTION XXIX.

A Short respite from rain gave me an opportunity of making a few excursions into the country.

The sanctuary of St. Rosalia, the peculiar patroness of Palermo, was the first place I visited. About a mile from the gates, Monte Pellegrino rises abruptly, quite detached from all other mountains. Its rocks are a hard lime-stone, and are quite bare; some tufts of grass shoot up in the

the interfices, but neither tree nor shrub is to be seen any where upon it, except near the top. In order to facilitate the approach to the saint's grotto, the senate of Palermo levied a tax upon meat, and with the amount made a road from the city, up the side of the mountain. By this way, in an hour's walk, I reached a convent and portico that close up the entrance of a spacious cavern, so full of springs, that leaden pipes are laid along the roof to catch the drops and convey them into a cistern, without which precaution no part would be dry. A rich altar covers the marble effigy of the saint, represented lying at full length. It is covered with a silver vest, the gift of his present Catholic majesty. The story of the saint, written on the wall, informed me, that St. Rosalia was the daughter of a Count Sinibaldus, and that, in order to preserve her virginity from the brutality of the Saracens, who then ruled in Sicily, she retired to a cave on Mount Quisquina, and afterwards came to live on Mount Pellegrino; here she

I

died,

died, and remained unknown till the year 1624, when her grotto, history, and body, were all discovered together.

Towards the close of the first Punic war, Hamilcar Barcas fortified this mountain \*, and preserving a free communication with the sea, maintained the post for five years, notwithstanding the success of his enemies against all the other Carthaginian generals.

My second day's route lay along the shore, towards the east, through a rich well-inclosed plain, bounded by very high mountains. The little river Ammiraglio †, on the bank of which Metellus defeated the Carthaginians, has worn its way deep into the stony stratum, under the vegetable covering. The stone is formed by an union of different pieces, knotted and rounded like stalagmites. This stream flows through

\* By the Greeks and Romans called Ercta, and Belgrin (neighbouring mountain) by the Saracens.

† Anciently Orethus.

pastures and orchards, which, even in December, display a lively green, and produce a pleasing variety with that of the young corn and pulse, and the rich foliage of the agrumi \*. A new bridge has been built across this river, the first step towards carrying into execution a plan for opening safe and commodious roads throughout the island, which is at present totally destitute of them. The archbishop, and some other public spirited persons have forwarded this essay, in hopes of stimulating the national assembly to exert itself, and correspond effectually with the king's wishes in that particular. It is meant to direct the great highways equally to all parts of the kingdom ; for the assembly will not readily consent that any one district should be more favoured than the rest, as all contribute to the expence. But as it is impossible to begin the

\* This is the generical term in Italian for all acid evergreen fruit trees, such as orange, citron, bergamot, cedrato—I employ it to save a tedious circumlocution.



work in so many different places at once, the objection might be removed, were the first road to be fixed upon by casting lots. It is a shame that so little should be done for public utility by a nation possessed of innumerable rich articles of commerce, slightly loaded with taxes, and defended in some degree by a parliament, composed of clergy, nobility, and citizens, from the usual encroachments of sovereigns, but not sufficiently protected against the more immediate power of feudal lords\*.

The baronage of Sicily is more independent of regal authority than that of Naples, and exercises greater sway over its vassals. In the kingdom of Naples the *mero e misto imperio*, as it is called, or the executive authority, is confined by various regulations; the Baron names the Governatore only of his feudal town; the Syndic and Eletti are chosen by the people. In Sicily

\* To form a fund for making these new roads, a tax of four ounces has been laid upon every coach.

no restraint seems to be laid upon the lord of the manor; he appoints to every place of trust and jurisdiction; civil and criminal law are both distributed by his creatures; the judges of the fief hear causes, condemn offenders, and then send the sentence for confirmation to the law agent, which every baron keeps in Palermo: if he approves of the sentence, it is executed without further appeal. These prerogatives vary a little according to particular tenures, but in general, barons have the disposal of every thing within their manor. When Earl Roger gave his captains these exorbitant powers over their lands and vassals, he gave them nothing but the property and the bodies of infidels, which he abandoned to their will and discretion as objects of contempt and hatred. In process of time, Christians became the sole occupiers of those lands which were held upon such abject conditions of vassalage; but the barons suffered no diminution of authority to take place on that account,

account, though it was certainly far from Roger's intentions to reduce Christians to slavery.

I rode about ten miles by the edge of the bay, between hedges of aloe and Indian fig. On the waste, asparagus, oleander, palma christi, and palmetto \*, or dwarf palm, over-run the surface of the ground. The road rises gradually to La Bagaria, a hill covered with villas belonging to the nobility; its soil is red and rocky. Some of these houses, being situated on the brow that separates the bays of Palermo and Termini, command a view of both; they are built with a coarse porous breccia of a dusky yellow cast, which is extremely unfit for the purposes of ornamental architecture, as it moulders away by being exposed to wind and rain. The first villa I saw belongs to a prelate of the name of Galetti; he has lately built it in a most agreeable taste. The centre of the rustic story is occupied by an

\* Palma flabellifolia sive Chamærops humilis. Linn.  
Class. 25.

arched gateway, having on each side an open niche, in which is placed a vase of antique form; above rises an order of Corinthian pilasters, crowned by a well-proportioned pediment and balustrade; the ornaments, though numerous, are chaste and light.

The sight of a house erected upon such reasonable principles of architecture was but a bad preparation for a visit to the villa of Palagonia its neighbour. To this extraordinary place the traveller is admitted through a huge gate, on the plinth of which are fixed six colossal white-washed statues of hussards or halberdiers, to dispute the entrance of an avenue three hundred yards long, not of cypresses, elms, or orange-trees, but of monsters.

On each hand is a parapet wall loaded with more horrible figures than were ever raised by Armida and all the enchanters of Ariosto. Busts of Punchinellos and Harlequins, with snakes twisted round them; the heads of dwarfs with huge perriwigs, of asses and horses with laced  
cravats



cravats and ruffs, compose the lower range of of this gallery, and at intervals of ten yards are clustered pillars, supporting curious groups of figures; some are musicians, others pigmies, opera heroes, old women grinning, lions and other beasts seated at tables with napkins under their chins, eating oysters; princesses with feathers and furbelows, ostriches in hoops, and cats in boots. In short, more unaccountable mixtures of company, and unnatural representations of creatures than I had patience to note, or memory to record. They are luckily all made of so soft and perishable a stone, that we need be under no apprehensions of this collection passing to posterity as a monument of the taste of the eighteenth century. Many enormous noses and preposterous limbs have already crumbled to dust. The stone-cutters that made these figures, though they could barely trace out a resemblance of the human form, have shewn great dexterity in carving furls, foliage, and flounces out of such coarse materials.

This avenue of Pandæmonium brought me to a circular court before the house, crowded with stone and marble beings, not to be found in any books of zoology. Men, monsters, and animals line the battlements of the mansion, and stand so thick, and in such menacing attitudes, that it would not be safe to approach in a windy day. The walls are cased with basso relievos, masks, medallions, scriptural subjects, heathen gods, emperors, and posture-masters: some of the sculpture is in a good style, copied from the antique; but the greatest part consists of such figures as we meet with in Dutch fairs, representing the seasons and elements.

Within doors the same sort of company presents itself; but the proprietor has for some years past abandoned this wonderful abode, and many of its beauties feel the fatal effects of his absence. The cielings of the room are of looking-glass; the walls lined with china and delf baubles; monkeys hold up the curtains, horses mount guard, and devils wait at the foot of the stairs.

The

The ball room remains imperfect, though intended for the *chef d'œuvre*; round it runs a marble bench, which upon examination I found to contain a great number of night tables.

I was in a hurry to leave this world of monsters, which almost made me giddy; the absurdity was so gross, the scene so disgustingly foolish, that I could not force a smile, but reflected with amazement, that the owner should be suffered to go at large. However, he is harmless, and his relations have taken upon them the administration of his estates; but not till he had squandered away forty thousand pounds sterling in these creations; his family has often wanted clothes and victuals, while the prince was lavishing his revenues in providing a dinner in stone for non-entities; he is a meek poor-looking mortal, with a feeble body, that does not appear to have energy enough even to commit such egregious follies. Since he has been debarred the pleasure of raising devils, he has attached himself to the

faints, and spends his life in following processions, and visiting churches. When he is asked in what part of the globe the originals of the figures upon his walls are to be met with, he answers, in Egypt, where Diodorus Siculus tells him, that the rays of the sun act so powerfully upon the fat slime left by the Nile, that it engenders all sorts of uncouth, and otherwise unknown animals.

### SECTION XXX.

**A**BOVE this palace of Folly, stands the villa Valguarnera, which takes in a view of Palermo and its bay, and the whole gulf of Termini as far as Cape Orlando. Its orchard consists of the Manna-ash, which was in blossom. In the middle of July a gash is made through the



the bark, and each succeeding day the operation is repeated, as long as the tears of gum exude: each tree yields about half a pound of gum a year, therefore is worth to the owner two taris and a half annually, the usual price being five taris a pound. These trees never arrive at any considerable size, on account of their annual bleedings; but the gardener assured me they last a century yielding manna. The borders were full of roses and other flowers in blow, and very highly scented; violets and carnations had been in flower since October; many fruit-trees here bear two crops; they produce fruit in the usual season, then bud again, and fructify a second time near the middle of September; the pears I tasted of this second gathering were but small and insipid.

On the rocks of Cape Azafran, and on the shore at its foot stood the Greek city of Solus. The fields adjoining still retain the name of Solanto.

Solanto\*. The tunny fishery is here very copious; a person concerned in it told me that a thousand large fishes have been taken at one draught; the nets are laid in May.

Leandro Alberti mentions sugar-works existing in his time at La Bajaria, but I presume they have long been abandoned. The quantity of sugar canes now cultivated in Sicily is very inconsiderable, and Sicilian sugar is quite a rarity; it is of a good colour and quality, but from want of encouragement or industry is almost

Nummi Soluntinorum.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. Herc.—Vermis marinus. Caract. Pun.
2. Cap. imb. gal.—in laur. COAONTINON.
3. Cap. Herculis COAONTINON—Vermis ruga 6 glob. inscrip. Punica.
4. Cap. vir. barb. laur. adhum trides COAONTINON—Cap. imb. gal. in scuto delphin.
5. Cap. vir. barb. laur.—Vir. nudus genuflexus COAONTINON.
6. Cap. Herc. barbâ hirsutâ—Vir nudus d. Jaculum s. clypeum tenens COAON.





MONREALE



supplanted by foreign sugars. This culture is in greatest vigour on the eastern coast of Valdinoto, but might be extended to advantage in many other districts. The canes grow to a fine size, and are very juicy—thrive almost without care—have heat and moisture enough, and neither hurricanes nor insects to apprehend. Labour is dear, and hands scarce, but certainly not so much as to prevent the Sicilians from underselling foreigners, at their own market at least.

On the 23d I rode to Monreale. An avenue of aged trees (some of which are platanes) leads from the gates of Palermo through the plain to the foot of the mountains, where it joins a magnificent road made by the late archbishop Testa. This work does honour to his taste and public spirit, for nothing is omitted that money, or zeal for the good of his fellow citizens, could accomplish.

The way winds easily up, supported by strong buttresses and breast-works, and adorned with borders of flowering shrubs, urns, fountains, and  
 inscrip.

inscriptions. The lines carved upon the lowest fountain have a very classical turn; they imply that, as nothing was wanting to complete this immortal work but the name of the generous founder, the magistrates and community of Monreale have dedicated this marble to their good archbishop during his absence. Opposite is another breathing the genuine spirit of the ancient *scientia lapidaria*, vowed by the Monrealese upon the happy return of their prelate from a general visitation of his diocese. The other inscriptions are far from corresponding in taste with these; some are even barbarous and harsh beyond expression; about the middle of the ascent is a fountain, that is admirably suited to the genius of the situation. Close to the road rises a huge barren rock, out of the bowels of which a fine stream gushes with great force; the artist has rendered himself the master of its motions, by adjusting to the original cliff large masses of rugged stone, which pen up the water into one full but irregular body; it then dashes  
head-

head-long into a capacious basin over-grown with the broad leaves of the lotus, flag, and water lily. On the summit of this artificial rock is the statue of a boy armed with a hatchet, watching a serpent that seems creeping towards the water; another boy, as if roused by the alarm, is represented climbing up with a stone in his hand, while a little girl, with dismay strongly marked in every feature, is hiding herself behind the stump of a tree.

A gate terminates this grand approach to Monreale, which, though a small place, is dignified with the title of an archiepiscopal city. It is built on the brow of a very high hill; lofty mountains hem it in on every side but the northern, on which a view opens over hanging woods of olive and orange trees to Palermo and the sea, a most extensive and noble scene.

This place owes its origin to a Benedictine convent, founded in 1174, by William the Second, enriched by grants of crown lands from the king, and by donations which he persuaded

his nobles to make. In the same reign this abbey church was converted into an archiepiscopal cathedral, and the sees of Syracuse and Catania subjected to it as suffragans. It continued to increase in wealth and splendour, till, upon the death of Archbishop Testa, his present majesty obtained from the pope a bull, whereby the sees of Palermo and Monreale were united, and the greatest part of the revenues of the latter set apart for the maintenance of a naval force to be employed against the Mahometan cruizers. Monsignor Testa was a Christian of the primitive church, disinterested, austere to himself, indulgent to others, and indefatigable in the duties of his high office; he despised riches, except as far as they were employed in works of public benefit, and spent his princely income in charity and useful undertakings. He left behind him no wealth, but one of those uncommon characters that meet with the admiration of all ages.

The



The city \* is clean and neatly built, and contains above eight thousand inhabitants.

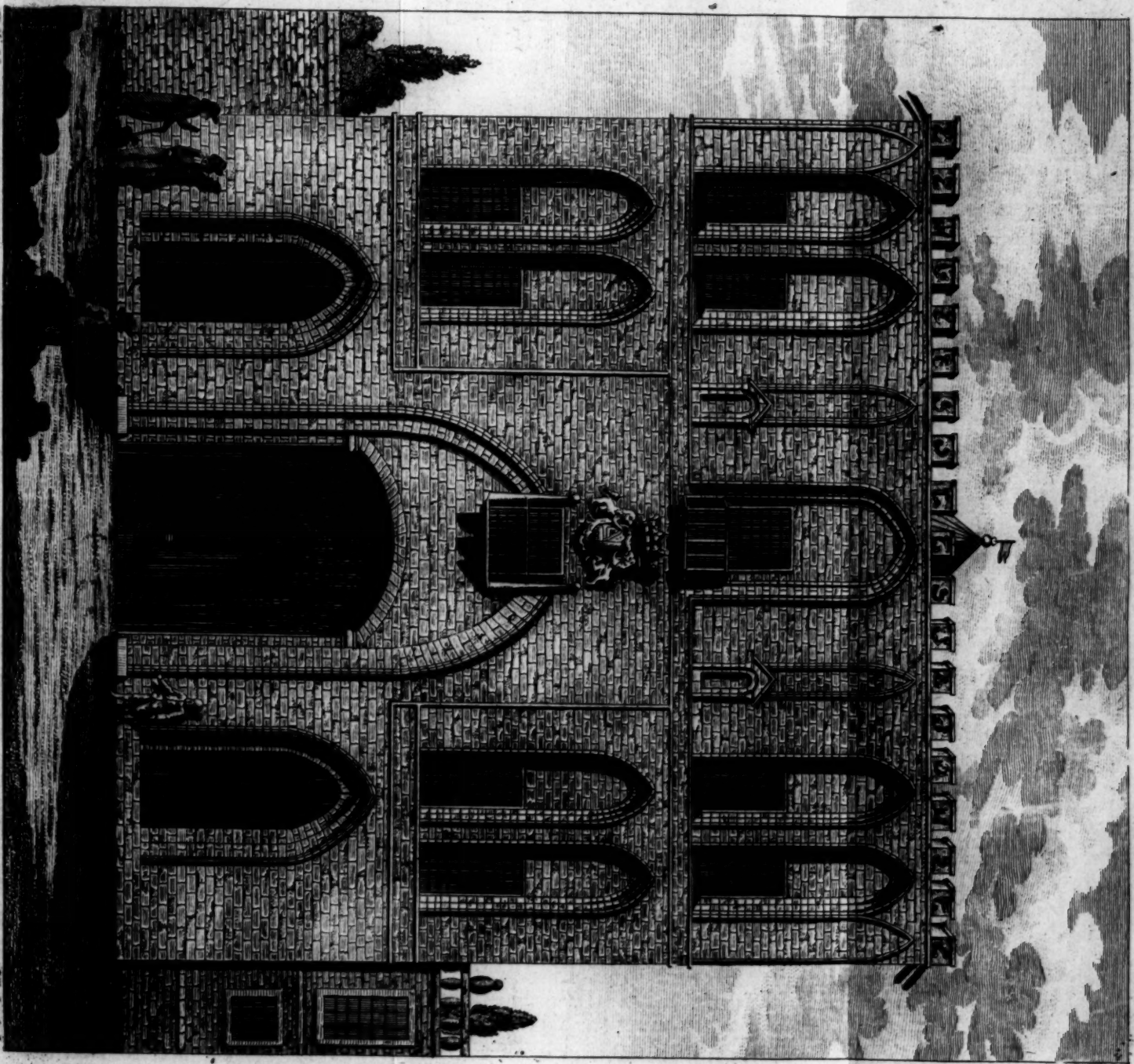
The cathedral exhibits a very disagreeable specimen of the Gothic taste. To increase its ugliness, the injudicious monks have white-washed the outside. Over the archbishop's throne is the portrait of William the Good, who lies interred in a tomb at the feet of his father, William the Bad. The latter monarch is deposited in a monument of porphyry, exactly similar to those in the dome of Palermo. Here is also a coffin containing the bowels of Lewis the Ninth, king of France, who died of the plague in his camp before Tunis, in 1270, and was canonized a saint twenty-seven years after his death.

\* I apprehend the name of Monreale was given by the king who founded the monastery; but some authors seem to intimate, that the mountain was known before that time by the Arabic appellation of Monrahal.

On

On my return to the plains I wandered into bye-roads, where the variety of evergreens made the appearance of the country round me almost as beautiful as if spring had banished winter and its dreary concomitants. I directed my steps to a large country-house of very ancient foundation, and remarkable architecture; it is called La Torre Zizza, built by the Saracens during their abode in Sicily, which places the epocha of its building as far back as the ninth or tenth century. The tale handed down by tradition is, that a sultan erected it for the purpose of confining his beautiful daughter Zizza; but as this word is said to mean *gay, flowery, decked out*, the palace may have acquired its name from its rich decoration, and fragrant gardens. Even now, when the Sicilians speak of a well-drest lady, they say she is a zizzata.

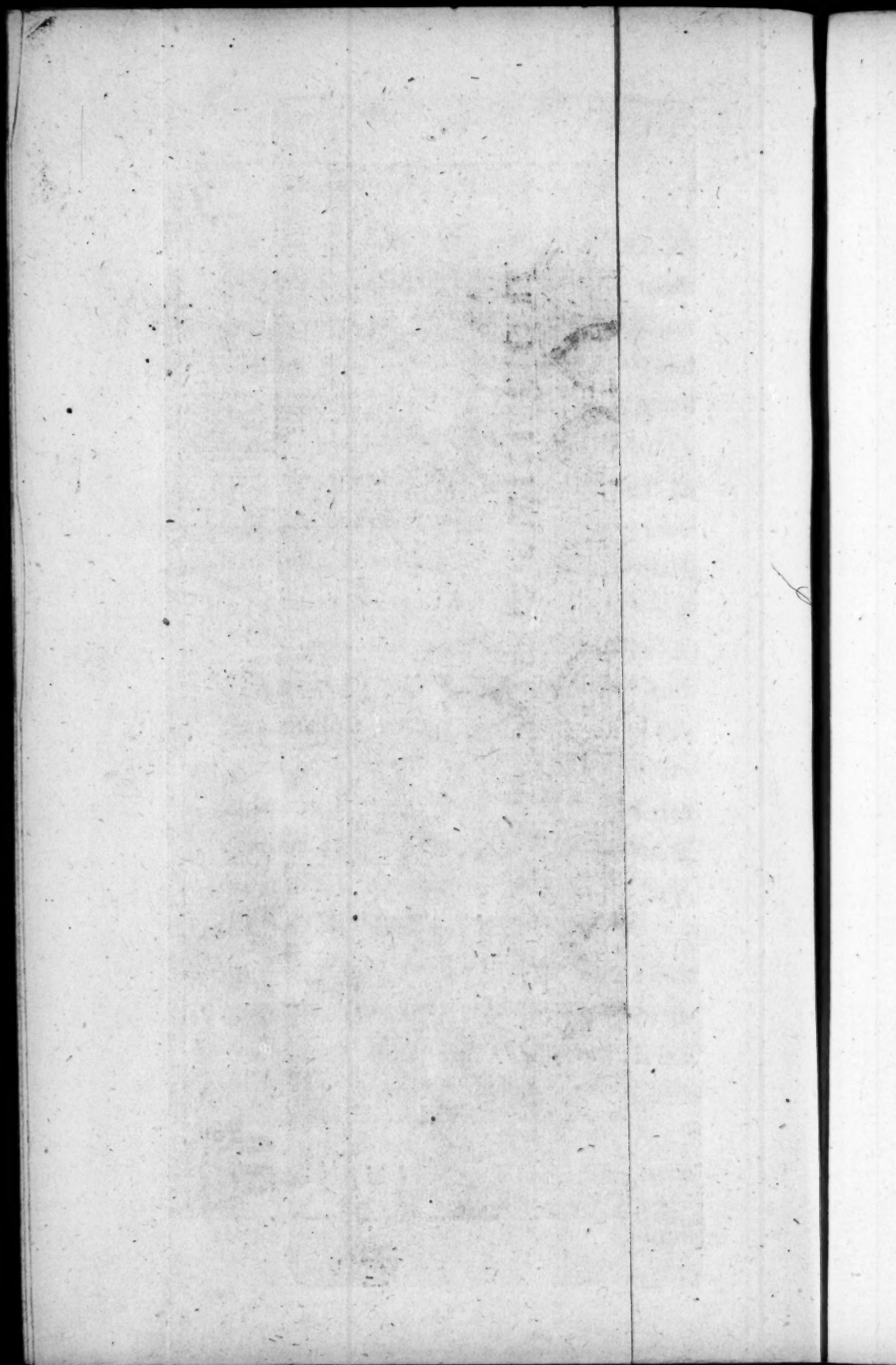
Except the insertion of a window and a coat of arms, I believe no alterations have been attempted in this edifice by modern hands; it is a  
square



H. W. 22.

*La Torre Lizza near Palermo.*

W. H. 22.





square stone tower, three stories high, of regular courses of masonry, not at all decayed by age. On each stone of the battlement is a letter hitherto unexplained, but it is probable it belongs to some alphabet used by the Saracens. The Arabians employed these capital letters in public records only, having others for the common business of society. Before the seventh century, that people wrote with many various characters, but at last agreed to adopt one particular mode of writing called the Cufick, which prevailed for three hundred years; therefore, as this building was probably erected soon after the Saracens conquered Palermo, we may presume that the inscription is conceived in the Cufick alphabet, now to be found only in the oldest Mahometan manuscripts. About the year 920, a new system of writing called Nikki was formed and introduced, which, with some variation, still continues to be the general handwriting of the East. This villa, though almost coeval with the mosque at Cordova, differs widely

from it in the character of its architecture; the windows of la Zizza are long, and almost round at the top, in the old Saxon manner, instead of being pointed or arched in the form of a horse-shoe. The inside is decorated with thin arches, and frosted cielings hanging down in drops. A fountain plays in the hall, and in summer preserves a fine temperature of air, which I did not find too cool even in winter.

# J O U R N E Y

## F R O M

### PALERMO TO GIRGENTI.

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#### S E C T I O N   X X X I .

**D** E C E M B E R 23, I left Palermo, provided with letters of recommendation from the archbishop to all the commissaries of the crociata, of which he is the chief. The crociata is an ecclesiastical commission established under a bull of the pope, with the power of of granting licences for eating eggs, milk, and cheese in Lent and other penitential seasons. The

price of this leave is fixed, and produces a net income to the king of one hundred and twenty thousand crowns (27,000*l*), which is expended in naval armaments against the infidels.

To these letters I was indebted for a most polite, hospitable reception and good accommodations wherever I came: the want of those comforts, and indeed of the necessaries of life, is generally complained of by strangers that travel in Sicily; but I should be guilty of ingratitude to the worthy prelate and my kind hosts, if I did not acknowledge that I completed my tour with the utmost ease and satisfaction.

I hired a mule for myself, a horse for my baggage, with a man to take care of it, two horses for the servants, and a campiere or soldier of Real Capitan \* for guide and protector.

This

\* A troop of horse established for the apprehension of robbers, and the safeguard of merchants and travellers. Whatever these soldiers may have been when former travels in Sicily were written, I am confident there is not the least ground



This cavalier was well armed and mounted; I found him an intelligent conductor, active, good-natured and attentive. The whole expence was fixed at forty taris a day (15s.)

We travelled westward down the vale of Colli, which is thronged with country houses; about a third of the land is in corn and olive-yards, a sixth in vineyards, and the remainder in pasture, heath, and plots of Indian fig. This defile brought us to the sea-shore, at the foot of a high mountain, called Sferra Cavallo from the stoniness of the road, which runs several miles between the cliffs and the sea. The first opening presented a view of Carini, a town pleasantly situated in a fertile territory, about a mile from the strand. It contains four thousand inhabitants, and gives title of prince to the family of Grua.

ground for suspecting that they have any connexion at present with the banditti, or that passengers are indebted for their safety to any compromise between government and those villains.

A long ridge, like a rampart, and some remnants of a wall, are said to indicate the site of Hiccará \*, a city mentioned in Thucydides, as the birth-place of Lais, the most celebrated courtesan in Grecian history. She was carried off when Nicias the Athenian general landed here on his way from Italy, plundered the town, and sold the inhabitants for slaves.

Continuing my route round the bay of Carini, I crossed a long neck of rocky land, the mountains approaching very near to the shore; their sides are planted with the manna-ash, and the ground at the bottom is covered with olive-trees. Near the land lies the *Isole delle Femine*, formerly a place of banishment for criminals.

This day's journey of twenty-four miles ended at La Favarotta, a town near the sea, containing two thousand people. The Benedictine monks

\* Nummi Hyccarenfes.

Ex Ære. 1. Caput barbatum IKAP.

Canis stans cum duobus globulis.

of

of St. Martin, a neighbouring abbey, and the prince of Carini, divide the manor between them. The produce of the territory is oil, manna, and wine, all sent to Palermo for sale. I was lodged at the house of the vicario foraneo, in a very neat apartment; my host was anxious to procure me every convenience, but so modest, that it was with difficulty I could persuade him to favour me with his company; my entreaties could not prevail upon him to partake of my supper. He is an inferior ecclesiastical judge, and transacts all the parochial business relative to tythes, dues, &c. while another priest called *il paroco amministratore*, superintends the spiritual department. At sun-set, as I was standing at the door, a dozen girls came dancing up to the sound of a tambourine and fife, and, after a short song, presented me with a nosegay of flowers. I offered them money, but they shook their heads, and one after another seized my hand, kissed it, and danced away. I asked the vicar, who was near me, if it would not have

been proper in me to have saluted them all round. He laughed, and told me in his country such civilities were never shewn in public; but, if I wished to oblige the young women, I might send a servant with a present to the chapel of their confraternity, and they would pray next morning for my safe journey. When I afterwards observed to the priest's old housekeeper, as I sat down to supper, that I wondered what was become of my servants; she gave me a very significant look, and said they were gone to make the offering for me, and to see that the girls said their prayers properly. Upon my hinting that they might be upon a service of danger, she smiled, and replied, that it was natural enough for me, being a stranger, to entertain such fears and recollect the Sicilian Vespers, but that such apprehensions were now entirely groundless; for, thank heaven, a woman's chastity was no longer guarded by swords and daggers.

December 24. From this place I travelled on up high rocky land, impending over the sea,  
and



and hemmed in very close by a lofty mountain, on the sides of which grew large thickets of manna-ash. The low grounds are cultivated with industry, and produce various sorts of fruit; the vines are propped up with reeds. Before winter begins, a large shallow trench is cast out round each root, and filled up again when spring approaches. As there is no extreme frost or even cold to apprehend, the plant acquires fresh health and vigour by having its roots thus exposed to the air.

After a long ride in a southern direction, we turned towards the bottom of the deep bay of Castelamare, formed by the capes of Sferra Cavallo and San Vito. The vale stretches to the left many miles into the inland country, and displays a fine tract of arable grounds, with farm-houses on the hills, and a few groves of olive and carobbean-trees. The large-berried juniper or oxycedrus grows here abundantly; as also a small rose-coloured lychnis, one of the prettiest

of its tribe. We now left the sea shore, and penetrated into the country, which is very hilly; the soil a deep clay, or strong rich loam; the whole appearance of the landscape so exactly similar to that of the plains of Puebla in Andalusia, that I almost thought myself once more in Spain. Much corn is produced here, but a large portion of the tillage land is sown with beans, which the farmers were then busy putting into the ground; they lay two or three beans upon a lump of dung in each hole, and then with a small hoe pull the mould in upon them. Alcamo was our next stage, twenty-one miles from La Favarotta. It is a considerable place of eight thousand five hundred souls, situated on high ground, in a fine open, cultivated country, itself well sheltered by large woods of olive trees. The streets are built in strait lines, but are very uneven and dirty. As the day was both windy and rainy, the inhabitants were muffled up in black or brown furtouts, with peaked hoods; at  
first

first sight of them, I thought all the friars of Sicily were assembled in this town.

Alcamo took its name from Adalcam the caliph's lieutenant, who in 827 conquered Sicily. That his forces might have a place of defence to retire to, in case of any unfortunate turn of affairs, he erected a fortress on the heights of Monte Bonifati, where some traces of its walls may yet be seen. Frederick of Swabia, having obliged the Saracens to march out of their castles, and pass over into Puglia, destroyed this fort, and brought the Christian inhabitants down to the foot of the rocks, where he built the present burgh of Alcamo for their reception.

I lodged at the archpriest's, a very polite clergyman. He invited the principal gentlemen of the town to supper, which was good, and served up in handsome plate, no mean sample of the richness of the benefice. The company was well bred, and appeared conversant in various branches of literature; one gentleman had a numerous collection of medals, which he would

not part with for money, but according to the Italian custom, pressed them upon me as a present.

Before our repast, I visited the churches and other public buildings. Alcamo\* is divided into two parishes; at the head of the largest the archpriest presides over fourteen chaplains. His church is modern and neatly fitted up, but too narrow. The nave is divided from the isles by columns of red marble brought from a neighbouring quarry. Pietro Novello, commonly called Il Morrealese, and the Raphael of Sicily,

\* Alcamo was first alienated in favour of John duke of Randazzo, a prince of the blood-royal of Arragon. Peralta married his heiress; it then passed to the Chiaramonti or Clermonts, of Norman extraction, long at the head of the Sicilian nobility. Andrew was the last. He was beheaded for rebellion against Martin the First, who gave this estate to Ventimiglia, another powerful house. It then went successively to several Spanish families, and now belongs to the duke of Ferrandina, heir to the possessions of Toledo duke of Alba.

has



has adorned it with some good pictures; and Gagini, with alto-relievos of great merit, especially as to expression in the heads.

The view from the skirts of the town is superb every way.

The best land hereabouts is sown with corn; the middling sort planted with vines; and myrtle-leaved sumack is cultivated on soils of a still inferior nature; its leaves and flowers are stripped off the bush, dried, pounded to powder, and exported in bags for the purpose of tanning fine leather; the plants are set in the shade of olive-trees, and remain in vigour about twenty years.

## SECTION XXXII.

**D**ECEMBER 25. A hilly, deep road over a high arable country, ten miles to Calatafimi, a large ugly town, belonging to the proprietor of Alcamo, and containing eight thousand souls. The environs are well cultivated, and some vineyards and orchards enliven this vast tract of corn land. Its castle, now in ruins, stands on the summit of a hill in a commanding situation.

Having deposited my baggage, and ordered my supper, I rode down into a low valley, by a disagreeable dangerous path, which was scarcely practicable even for my cautious mule. At the foot of the mountain, I forded the river of San Bartolomeo, supposed to be the Crimifus \* of the

\* Clavier thinks that the Belici was the Crimifus, as being by its size and depth better suited to the description given

the ancients, so famous for its god, who, in the shape of a dog, found favour in the eyes of the nymph Segesta, and is represented in that form upon the Segestan coins. I then proceeded about two miles over moist, stony pastures to a place called Barbara, where stood the city of Egesta or Segesta founded by the Trojans. It was subdued by the Carthaginians, and often laid in ruins, but, from the happiness of its situation, and the divisions among its enemies, recovered from every blow, 'till the general desolation that attended the Saracenic or the Norman conquest; for all is obscure in the chronicles of those ages. It was then completely destroyed. I was astonished that so few of the materials, with which the city was built, should now remain on the spot. To carry them off for

given us of the victory obtained on its banks by Timoleon over the Carthaginians. But I think the Belici is too far distant from Segesta to have been comprised within the limits of that republic, and therefore not likely to figure either in its political or numismatical history.

purposes

purposes of building elsewhere, seems an enterprise of too great labour and too little advantage to be assigned as a cause of their no longer existing, nor are there towns or houses enough in the neighbourhood to have employed the stones. The nature of the stone is too compact for the air and weather alone to dissolve.

Nothing could be more judiciously chosen than the situation of Segesta; it lay upon a ridge of hills gently sloping towards the northern aspect, sheltered on the southern and eastern quarters by high rocky eminences, at the foot of which two roaring brooks wended their course and embraced the city. While Segesta was in a flourishing state, its environs populous and well cultivated, the aspect of the country must have been delightful; the pestilential suffocating blasts, that rush over the seas from the hot sands of Africa, could not reach this protected vale, while the wholesome north wind had free admittance to refresh and purify the atmosphere.

The



The walls appear in many places. The emporium was at the mouth of the river, near the spot where Castelmare now stands. Segesta had the advantage of hot mineral waters within its district, which are still used for medical purposes. The form of its theatre is discernible; some cisterns and foundations of houses occur along the declivity. On the brow of a lofty rock impending perpendicularly over the river, and at the eastern extremity of the city, is to be seen a most noble, well-preserved monument of ancient magnificence; on this bold cliff rises a Doric temple of thirty-six columns, all, except one, perfectly entire; the damaged column suffered with part of the pediment by a stroke of lightning. This edifice is a parallelogram of 162 feet by 66. The colonnade stands upon one common plinth, or range of stone, which is cut through, as for an entrance, at the last intercolumniations of each flank. In the fronts it is so between all the pillars; within, at every intercolumniation, a recess of half a diameter is left

as a niche for a statue, or an altar; the columns are of a longer proportion than those of Pæstum, and therefore I suppose this temple is of a later date: they taper very much, being six feet in diameter below, and four only at top, without any swell in the middle; they have no base, but there is a groove near their bottom, in which it appears that there has been a metal rim fixed with nails; it is probable that the architects of ages subsequent to its foundation, being desirous of accommodating this old Doric style to their customary rules for expressing that order, had fastened a brass base round each column. The capitals are simple, but the denticules and drops of the entablature have a more modern appearance than those of the Pæstan ruins. The architrave is built with one large upright stone over the centre of the column between two very long flat ones that reach from one capital to the other. The frieze and architrave are entire all round; and, except in the pediments, so is the cornice. There is no inner wall or cella, nor  
any

any vestige of a roof; hence some observers have concluded that this building was never finished. It is difficult to pronounce at what period of time this temple was erected: the style of its architecture marks an earlier æra than that of the Cæsars, unless we suppose that the Segestans worked upon the plans which had been handed down to them from their remote ancestors, without allowing themselves the liberty of adopting any of the variations introduced by modern artists. As roofs are generally composed of timber, lead, copper, tiles or slates, it is easy to conceive how such materials may have been purloined or destroyed; though the solidity of the columns have resisted all attacks of time and foes.

The pediments are much injured; the northern aspect is corroded by the weather; the stone being a porous, grey, marine concretion. The clear colour and majestic disposition of so many columns, on which light and shade are cast in various directions, and the insulated situation of

so grand a building on a bold eminence in the midst of a desert, have something singularly awful and sublime in their effect \*.

Having

\* Nummi Segestanorum.

Ex Argento.

1. Caput mulieb. diad. ΣΕΓΕΣΤ—Canis.
2. Cap. mul.—Canis. arista ΣΕΓΕΣΤΑΤΙ.
3. Cap. mul. ΣΕΓΕΣΤΑ ΤΙΒ—Canis.
4. Cap. Pall. gal.—Hercules clavæ inn. ΕΣΤΑΕ.
5. In corona hed. cap. mul.—Canis et concha ΣΕΓΕΣΤΑΙ ΝΟ.
6. Cap. imb. pleno vultu ΣΕΓΕΣΤΑ ΤΙΒ—Canis flos.
7. Hercules arcum tend. clava symb. Trinacriæ ΕΓΕΣΤΑΙΩΝ. — Duo viri nudi saccum tenentes ΨΟΦΟΔ.

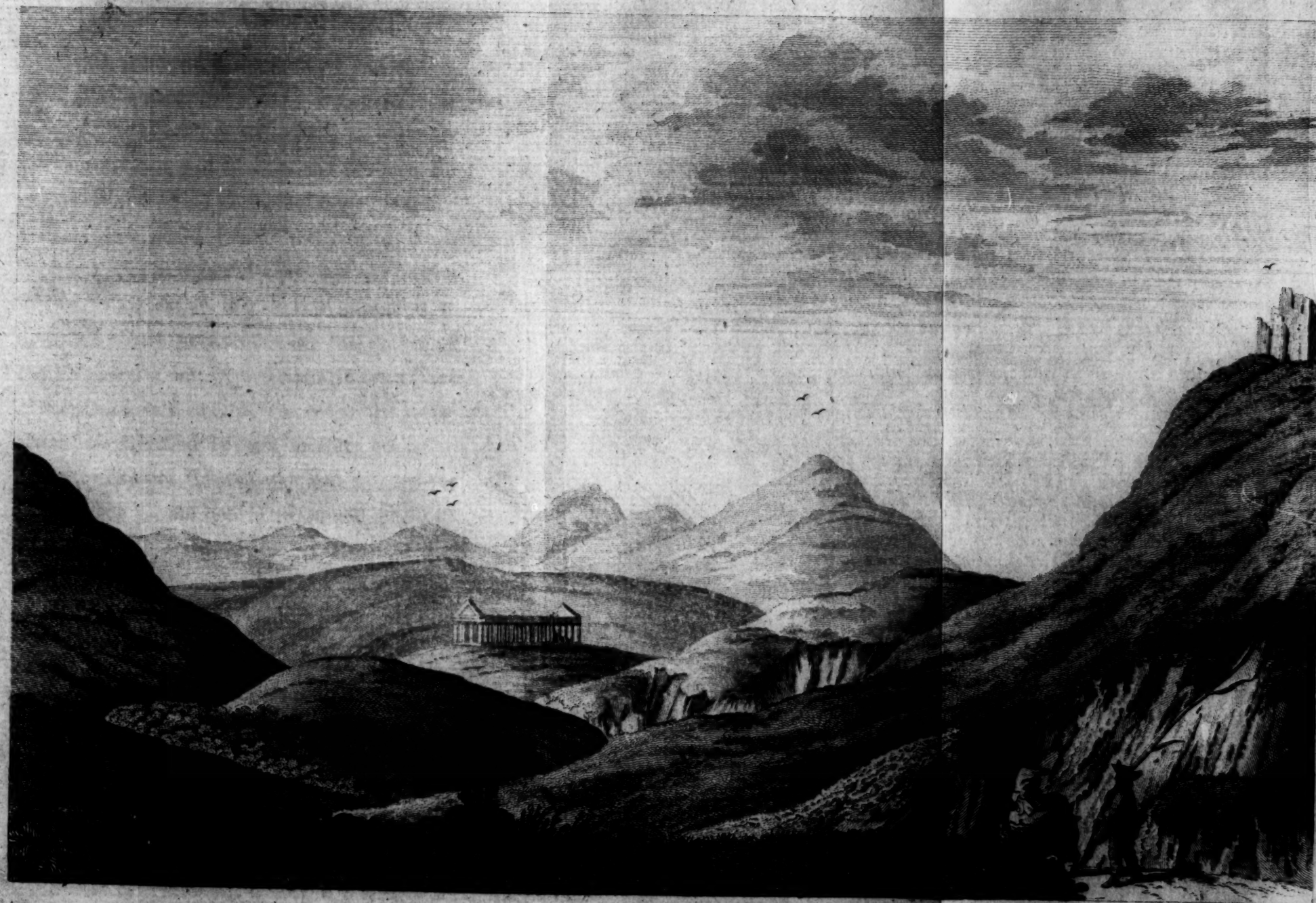
Ex Ære.

1. Cap. mul. turrit.—Æneas Anchisen porlans d Ensem. ponè columba—ΕΓΕΣΤΑΙΩΝ.
2. Idem.—Vir stans.
3. Cap. Herculis—Arcus et pharetra ΣΕ.

From the inscriptions upon three of these silver coins it seems as if Segesta had assumed the additional name of Tiberiana in honour of the emperor, who gave this city some particular marks of his favour.

Measures





~ Castle of Calatafimi.  
 ~ ~ ~ Temple of Segesta.

View of the Country near Segesta.

~ ~ Cape San Vito.



Having spent the best part of the day in examining, measuring, and drawing this noble building, I hastened back to Calatafimi, as eager for refreshment as I had been in the morning for antiquities. I found the best fare provided for me the place could afford; the lodging, however, was old, crazy, and cold, but the owners so civil and attentive, that it was impossible to complain of any inconveniences; the master of the house was a notary, and his wife one of the prettiest women I had yet seen in Sicily; I was afterwards distressed beyond measure to learn, that they had not suffered my man to pay for the least thing, and had sitten up all night to accommodate us with beds. To enliven the evening conversation, they invited the principal

## Measures of the Temple.

|                      |      |                  |
|----------------------|------|------------------|
| Length               | ———— | 162 feet         |
| Breadth              | ———— | 66               |
| Intercolumniations   |      | 6                |
| Diameter of columns  |      | 6                |
| Breadth of the steps |      | 1 foot 8 inches. |

A a 3 people



people of the town with their wives, who were very free and sociable: this rather surprized me, as many travellers, and those very modern ones, tell us, that the Sicilians are so jealous and severe to their wives, that they never suffer them to come into the company of strangers, much less to join in conversation with them. I suspect these persons have copied authors who wrote in times when such mistrust reigned more than it does at present, or have formed general inductions from partial evidence. There seems to be very little constraint laid upon the intercourse of the two sexes among the nobility at Palermo, and none among my visitors at Calatafimi, people of a lower class; the observation, therefore, does not hold good in every instance. The assembly was very attentive to all my words and motions, that they might anticipate my wishes and save me trouble; but their civility was of an unpolished kind. I was frequently the subject of their discourse; and those that knew any thing about me, either from the arch-  
bishop's



bishop's letter or from my servants, communicated their knowledge aloud to every new comer, as if I were deaf or did not understand their language. An old gentleman, the wit of the circle, put many questions to me, and in return acquainted me with the politicks and scandal of the town: he was possessed of great cheerfulness and native humour, but so totally ignorant of every thing and place beyond the limits of Sicily, that I never could make him comprehend where England is situated, or how circumstanced with regard to its colonies, of which he had learned something from the gazettes. Finding my answers to his questions were incapable of conveying instruction, I gave myself no farther trouble, but suffered him without interruption to smoke his pipe, and in the intervals of his puffing to run on in a long string of stories, confounding times, names, places, and persons, in so ludicrous a manner, that the most inflexible features must have been betrayed into a smile: fortunately he took my laugh for a compliment, and joined very heartily in it.

## SECTION XXXIII.

**D**ECEMBER 26. The next morning being, as the night had been, cold and stormy, the peasants went to church in short dark surtouts with capuchin hoods, which, added to their swarthy complexions, four looks, and greasy, frizzled hair, composed the blackest congregation I ever beheld.

The road from Calatafimi is extremely steep and clayey; a few inclosures surround the town, but at a small distance commences a very mountainous country covered with grass, and destitute of trees. The temple of Segesta makes a noble appearance on a verdant knoll embosomed in the lofty hills.

Salemi\* was the first place I saw; it lies to the west of the road in a hilly corn-country

\* Anciently Halycia. Both names allude to the saltiness of its waters and soil.

quite bare of wood ; a considerable portion of this town was not many years ago thrown by an earthquake into a precipice.

We now began to climb the heights that form the point of division between the northern and southern parts of the Valdi Mazzara ; the rocks lie here at day shining like diamonds, being composed of talc and gypsum. The soil is amazingly fertile, and the pastures rich in herbage ; the lands, upon which wheat had been reaped the preceding season, were covered with such a luxuriant crop sprung from the seeds scattered in gathering, that it was difficult to distinguish them from the grounds where the grain had been actually sown, and was shooting up for the ensuing harvest ; the difference was only discernible by the cattle being suffered to feed and lie upon the stubble, if I may give it so improper a name.

After a long ride up and down many tedious hills, we at last arrived at a very lofty point, which afforded a more animated prospect. To the

the east I descried the town of Santa Nimfa, and beyond it a vast track of verdant hills bounded by the high Nebrodian mountains, on one of which, a conical peak called Busambra, some snow was lying : to the south I had the pleasure of contemplating the African sea, and before it an enchanting range of woody vales and party-coloured plains. Partana and other large towns, appear placed on the verge of the highlands, commanding an immense land and sea view. It is to be remarked, that most baronial towns are thus built on eminences at a distance from the shore, and out of the reach of sudden invasion ; royal burghs, having stronger fortifications and regular garrisons or militia, stand more venturously on the edge of the sea.

After an eight hours journey through a naked, bleak country, my heart dilated with pleasure on the approach of the fruitful regions I saw before us as we travelled down to Castel Vetrano.

This is a fief belonging to Pignatelli duke of Montele-



Monteleone\*, and now contains twelve thousand souls. I was told that its population has for many years been decreasing with fatal rapidity; and that the causes lie deep in the bad administration of the agents intrusted with the concerns of the duke, and in the decay of its wine trade. The wine has fallen considerably in esteem from injudicious practices followed of late years by the vintagers, who mix all sorts of grapes promiscuously together, in order to make a larger quantity of wine, and save expence and labour, and thereby enable themselves the more easily and speedily to satisfy the demands made upon them. Formerly they took great care in selecting the best sorts of grapes, and in making their wines, which were incomparably fine, as I may pronounce from the sample I have tasted of their old stock; in colour they resemble

\* The first lord of Castel Vetrano was Thomas Corvino, in the time of Frederick the Second of Arragon; then it was given to the house of Tagliavia; but in 1652 the heiress of that branch conveyed it to the Pignatelli.

Madeira,

Madeira, and in flavour and strength equal the best sherry. An old proprietor informed me that the strength of the liquor depended on the close pruning of the vine. The vine-dressers set their plants in holes bored with an augre that has a large heavy handle like a barrel: the stems are supported by reeds.

In the arable lands are some poor farm-houses, and many straw huts built in a conicle form for herdsmen to watch their cattle in. Husbandmen plough their land with oxen, one pair of which is yoked to the plough each morning, and another pair takes their place in the afternoon: if all the ploughs I saw at work in one field had belonged to the person that farms it, his stock of cattle would have exceeded all bounds, for I counted twenty-four ploughs at work together; but it is usual among the farmers to hire and borrow oxen as their tillage requires it. Throughout the wide extent of pastures, I observed no buildings except a few cottages near the wells. In the neighbourhood  
of

of the town, dwellings are rather more closely set, and the lands fenced with stone-walls. All labour in these inclosures is performed with the hoe; by which mode of husbandry considerable quantities of wheat, beans, and flax, are raised.

Castel Vetrano is a large burgh, well-built with stone, the streets spacious, and disposed with attention to regularity. Some convents and private houses make a good appearance; the feudal mansion is a large, handsome building, but from long neglect begins to shew signs of decay.

I lodged at the house of a canon; but, as he was absent upon duty at Mazzara, and as his sister-in-law could not in decency suffer herself to be seen on account of the recent loss of her husband, I was committed to the care of a civil, old servant. The house was furnished like the mansion of a decayed country gentleman, with heavy chairs and tables, and pieces of tarnished gilding on the walls, remnants of ancient finery.

## SECTION XXXIV.

**D**ECEMBER 27. I rode seven miles into the south vale, a rich inclosed district like the country round Naples; it is watered by the Madiuni, a clear romantic stream; the rising grounds are planted with vines and olive-trees, while orange-groves shade the low lands; among these are some mulberry stocks, on which the orange is grafted, and produces fruit with a blood-coloured pulp. As I approached the sea the face of the country altered to smooth, green swells, with tufts of lentiscus, but no trees. The river passes through a long line of hills, which exhibit the most extraordinary assemblage of ruins in Europe, the remains of Selinus: they lie in several stupendous heaps with many columns still erect, and at a distance resemble a large town with a crowd of steeples; my servants took them for such, and were quite rejoiced



joiced at the thoughts of the very grand city they were coming to; nothing could exceed their disappointment when they reached the top of the hill, and found silence and desolation, where they expected busy crowds and the noisy hurry of a populous place. The body of the town stood on a ridge west of the river and near the sea, where the present watch-tower is built; the harbour was at the mouth of the Madiuni; some of the walls of its mole are still existing above the sands. The eastern hill, which seems not to have been within the walls, is not commanded by any other point of land, and falls with a rapid slope towards the sea, going off in much more gentle declivity on the north side; the top is a very extensive level, on which lie the shattered members of three Doric temples, thirty yards asunder, in a direct line from north to south.

The most northerly temple, which was Pseudodipteros, exceeded the others very much in dimensions and majesty, and now composes one  
of

of the most gigantic and sublime ruins imaginable. The columns of the pronaos, which fronted the rising sun, are fluted, those, that supported the sides of the temple plain; one of the former and two of the latter are still standing, though not entire; the capital and entablement are totally overturned. The columns measure nine feet three inches in diameter at bottom, and six feet three inches below the capital. I believe their total height did not exceed five diameters or fifty feet. The capitals are of one solid block, uncommonly bulky in the semiglobular part called the ovolo. Although these noble ruins be tumbled together in great confusion, and the means of measuring their extent be difficult, I think I may pronounce, from the measures I took, that the length of the whole edifice was about two hundred and seventy feet, and its breadth one hundred and thirty-four.

The second temple is ruined with more order, and is easily described; it had six columns in the fronts and eleven on each side, in all thirty-four;

four; their diameter is five feet; they were all fluted, and most of them now remain standing as high as the second course of stones.

The pillars of the third temple were also fluted, and have fallen down so very entire, that the five pieces which composed them lie almost close to each other, in the order they were placed in when upright; the cella does not exceed the vestibule in extent.

All these temples are of the old Doric order, without a base, and of a much more massive proportion than the Segestan edifice. The two lesser temples are more delicate in their parts and ornaments than the principal ruin; the stone, of which they are all composed, is smooth and yellowish, and was brought from the quarries of Castel-franco, seven miles off\*.

It is said that the city was destroyed by the Carthaginians, and that these proud fanes were levelled to the ground by the hand of man; but

\* There are other ruins and broken columns dispersed over the site of the town, but none equal to these.

it is at least as probable that they were shaken and overthrown by an earthquake; their prodigious volume must have rendered it a difficult task to overthrow them, and the regularity, with which the columns of the smaller temples are thrown down, argues the effect of some uniform general concussion. It is hard to attribute such devastation solely to human malice; and whoever beholds these enormous masses, scattered in heaps upon the plain, must of course accuse Nature of having had some share in this victory over the pride of art.

\* Selinus was a colony of the Hyblæan Megara,

\* Numi Selinuntinorum.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. mulieb. oculis stupentibus sparsis crinibus—  
Canis ΣΕΛΙΝΟΝ.

2. Fig. viril. stans d. pater offer. supra aram subter quâ  
gullus. s. ramum ten. A tergo substructio in qua bos et  
upra pampinus ΣΕΛΙΝΟΝΤ—Figuræ duæ viril. bigis infi-  
dentes—Alter haben. regit alter arcum tendit radiato capite  
ΣΕΛΙΝΟΝΤ.



gara, and took its name from the great quantity of wild parsley \* that grows in the neighbourhood;

3 Bos cum vultu humano et uno cornu vitis fol. ΣΕΑΙΝΟΝΤΙΟΝ—mul. feminuda sed crocodilo d. anguem ten. ad pedes triquetra.

4. Vir nud. d. pat. s. bacul. ante ara cum serpente pone cap. bov. et vitis fol. ΣΕΑΙΝΟΝΤΙΟΝ—

Hercules nudus clav. Taurum domans.

5. Hercules id. ΣΕΑΙΝΟΝΤΙΟΝ—Vir nud d. pat. sup. alt. effund. in qua Z et s in corollam ten. à terg. galina et vit. fol. ΑΞ.

6. Hercules et Taurus ΣΕΑΙΝΟΝΤΙΟΝ—Vir nud. stans d pat. fol. ΗΥΡΑΞ.

Ex Ære.

1. Planta palmæ sylvestris S.

\* Selinum, or milky parsley, rises to the height of four feet; its leaves resemble those of fennel giant; the flowers are yellow, and grow in umbels. Linn. gen. pl. 337. cl. 5. ord. 2.

Measures of the largest Temple.

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Length of pronaos  | 132 feet. |
| Breadth of pronaos | 33 —      |
| Length of cella    | 260 —     |

B b 2

Breadth

hood\*; it was a flourishing state during the period of four centuries, till it was taken and destroyed by Hannibal a Carthaginian general, in the 359th year of Rome. This city did not

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Breadth of cella           | 39 feet. |
| Diameter of columns        | 9 —      |
| Total length with the step | 270 —    |
| Total breadth              | 134 —    |

\* Virgil gives the epithet of *Palmosa* to *Selinus*, and perhaps in his time these hills were crowned with groves of those towering trees. At present, not one is to be seen, and I am almost tempted to think that the poet alluded to the dwarf palm, or palmetto, which actually covers the waste lands of these environs as thick as furze or broom does our commons in England. Cluvier says *Selinus* produces *insignes palmas fylvestres*. I am afraid he copied Virgil, without reflection, as Fazellus, who lived a century before him, positively asserts, that whatever there might have been in Virgil's time, there were no palms in his, except of the small wild kind. The palmetto is called *giumara* by the Sicilians, who eat its fruit, though mawkish, make ropes and nets of its stalks, brooms of its leaves, and good fattening fodder for their cattle of the whole plant.

recover

recover from its calamities under Roman government, for Strabo speaks of it as uninhabited. Selinus must, however, have risen out of its ashes during the lower empire, for it is mentioned as one of the first considerable places taken by the Saracens, and one of the last they abandoned. It was razed to the ground by the Normans.

I had laid a plan of passing the night near these venerable relicks of remote antiquity that I might have more leisure to examine them, and also enjoy the pleasure of viewing them in all the tints and shades cast upon them by the rays of departing day, the beams of the moon, and the first dawn of the ensuing morning, but the holiday diversions and ceremonies had carried away every inhabitant of the farm-houses—I was therefore necessitated to return to Castelvetro.

December 28. Early next morning I revisited these ruins with fresh satisfaction, and spent the greatest part of the day in wandering among

them. In the afternoon I continued my journey towards the eastern part of the island along the hills above the sands. They are overgrown with the lentiscus or maffick tree. We descended gradually into some marshes that render the country very unwholesome in autumn, and came to the river Belici, which I expected to pass without difficulty; but my guides were so intimidated by a deep plunge the soldier's horse made in attempting the ford, that all my rhetoric and promises were ineffectual, though I offered to lead the way on the horse, for a mule is a dangerous beast to trust to on such an occasion. Finding it impossible to bring them into my measures, I acquiesced in theirs, and remounted the course of the river some miles to a bridge. The Belici resembles the river Mole of Surry in size and colour, and winds very agreeably between high banks overgrown with elms, willows, and tamarisks. The vale on both sides wide and well laid out in corn-fields, and pastures crowded with horses and horned cattle.

We



We scarcely took a step, without springing partridges or water-fowl. The coast behind us was bleak and bare, where the fury of the waves is restrained by low, sandy downs, covered with short yellow grass, and frequently indented by creeks and inlets. From the bridge, we travelled through a hilly country, and forests of cork-tree, to a town called Memfrici, which reckons 2700 inhabitants, belongs to the duke of Monteleone, and, jointly with Castelvetrana, gives him an income of thirty-five thousand crowns.

## SECTION XXXV.

**D**ECEMBER 29. Hills bare of wood; much corn; the soil a rich loam. We descended into a small plain, where rice is cultivated on the banks of the little river Carabi. The country beyond grew very hilly, and more inclosed with olive plantations; the soil a mix-

ture of sand and clay. When we approached Sciacca, which is twelve miles from the last stage, the duke of Tagliavia, having been previously informed by my campiere that I had letters of recommendation to him, met me out of town in his coach, and lodged me in his own house. His family were once lords of Castelve-trano and Memfrici, but those estates were transferred to other families by marriage. The principal persons of the town were invited to meet me, and a most splendid entertainment was served up. I found the Sicilian cookery entirely different from that of France or England; sugar and spices were predominant in almost every dish.

\* Sciacca, which derives its present denomination from the Arabic word *scheich*, a chieftain, is a place of very old date in history, being mentioned in the account of the wars between the Greeks and the Carthaginians as belonging to the latter. Earl Roger gave it as a portion

\* Anciently, *Thermæ Selinuntiaë*.

with

with his daughter Juliet, who was first married to Robert Zamperon, and secondly to Gilbert Perollo de Perignon. In the reign of Martin and Mary, the heiress of the house of Peralta, a lady of rare beauty, and ample possessions, was wooed by two of the most accomplished youths in Sicily, Artale de Luna, and James Perollo, a descendant of Gilbert. The king, who was partial to Luna as being a Spaniard, prevailed upon the lady to give her hand to him, in preference to the Sicilian. This disappointment excited such rage and hatred in Perollo's breast, that nothing could allay it but the blood of his fortunate rival; he accordingly attempted to cut him off by open violence; but found him too well prepared, and force opposed to force; he then took a more secret and a surer revenge, and destroyed Luna by poison. This infamous deed entailed discord and ruin upon both families; but a kind of sullen quiet reigned till Artale's son, Antonio, came to an age fit for the command of a party; he then meditated

ven-

vengeance for his farther's murder, and began a civil war at Sciacca, that was carried on with the most cruel inveteracy. Almost the whole city took part in the dissention, and was deeply involved in horror and desolation by this first tumult, called the first *Caso di Sciacca*. Peter Perollo, the inheritor of his father's quarrel, attacked and wounded Antonio by night, but did not succeed in killing him. Antonio was no sooner recovered of his wounds, than he retaliated the outrage with fire and sword upon the lives and properties of the Perollians. Their chief, with great difficulty, saved himself by flight; the streets of Sciacca swam with blood; its principal edifices were yielded a prey to the flames, and neutrality was no longer a protection. Matters being gone such lengths, the neutral citizens, justly alarmed at the licentiousness and cruelty of those party-bravos, whose swords, once fleshed, were not likely to be soon returned to the scabbard, called upon government for assistance.

The



The viceroy gave it effectually : peace was restored, and both the leaders of the fray sentenced to perpetual banishment. Thus Sciacca enjoyed a respite from its woes, till a fresh disturbance was raised by the next generation of the rival families. James Perollo, who appears to have been a gentleman of high endowments, ingratiated himself with the viceroy, and, proud of his favour, carried himself at Sciacca with such disdainful and insulting haughtiness, that he roused the dormant spirit of Sigismund de Luna ; this youth was naturally of a timid, modest disposition, and might have contented himself with obscure tranquillity, had not the pride of his hereditary foe excited his indignation and that of his friends ; they suddenly flew to arms, and assaulted the castle where Perollo resided ; the defence was weak, and the gates stormed, but Perollo found means to escape before the assailants could force the passage. He was, however, pursued, overtaken, and by Luna's express orders butchered in cool blood. This was the second Caso di Sciacca.

The

The emperor Charles the Fifth, who then filled the throne of Sicily, was not of a temper to brook such a daring violation of law and order, and proper measures were immediately taken to bring the offenders to condign punishment. Luna saw the storm approaching, and, conscious of his inability to resist it, left Sicily, and took sanctuary in the papal dominions. Every interest was employed, every recommendation procured, to obtain a pardon, but the sovereign persisted in a just denial; the wretched culprit, deprived of fortune, and overwhelmed with despair, threw himself headlong into the Tyber, and there buried all his earthly sorrows.

Sciacca is defended by ancient walls and the castle of Luna. It stands upon a very steep rock, hanging over the sea, and excavated in every direction into prodigious magazines, where the corn of the neighbouring territory is deposited for exportation; there is no harbour, but a small bay formed by a wooden pier, where lighters

lighters lie to load the corn which they carry out about a mile to ships at anchor.

As the southern coast is naturally destitute of havens, and the adjacent lands exceed the rest of the island in abundance of grain, it has been found necessary to establish at various towns caricatori or loading places in order to facilitate the corn trade; each caricatore has spacious granaries belonging to government, to which all persons whatever may bring their corn at their own charge; the corn is lodged in these public reservoirs, and a receipt given to the owners for the quantity; this acknowledgment is negotiable during twelve months, in which space of time the holder may export all or part of his stock just as it suits his interest, on paying eighteen taris duty for every salma of wheat. The caricatore runs all risks, and bears all expences incurred by taking care of the deposit, and repays itself by the increase of measure, which corn acquires in the granary, in the proportion of six per cent. and by the exportation-

tion-duty. This institution, which does not exist in Naples, is esteemed of infinite advantage to Sicily, where the difficulties of obtaining a permit or leave to export are much more easily removed. But I must not dissemble that there is still a suspicion of partiality and collusion in the distribution of those licences, tending to favour the rich and great, and to reduce exportation to a monopoly; to balance this account, the farmers and middling proprietors contrive, by means of correspondences with foreigners, to smuggle a considerable quantity of corn out of the country, without paying any duty.

The tribunal of Real Patrimonio has the superintendency of these permits, which it grants upon application after an account has been taken of the crops, and the reserve for home-consumption settled. The late permissions have almost doubled the incomes of the Sicilian landholders, whose customary mode of letting their lands is to take four *salma* of wheat for every *salma* of land, so that the price of corn determines



determines the amount of the annual income. From two ounces eighteen taris per salma wheat has risen to three ounces four taris. This advance has stimulated the husbandman to plough every corner of his good land, and even to force the shallow soil of his rocky wastes to yield a crop; but tillage is performed in a slovenly superficial manner.

## SECTION XXXVI.

**T**HE town is irregularly but substantially built, and contains thirteen thousand inhabitants, as the chief persons among them informed me, though Amico's *Lexicon Topographicum* says the last enumeration found only nine thousand four hundred and eighty-four.—His accounts do not take in ecclesiasticks, and several denominations of lay persons.

The

The mother church was built by Juliet of Hauteville, and has little to recommend it in the eyes even of a lover of the antiquities of the middle ages. The buildings erected under the auspices of the Norman conquerors are generally very heavy.

In the churches I found some pictures by artists of the island; the cieling of the Giumara, a convent of Benedictine nuns, would be admired even in cities that boast of greater names in painting, and display greater riches of the kind. Some figures of Apostles in the same place claim attention on account of their bold, strong colouring, and their being the production of a living painter\*; his attitudes are rather affected. A picture of the Madonna attracted my notice, as being painted by Don Gaspare Testoni, an amateur resident in this his native

\* M. Roffi, actually engaged in painting the largest historical subject in Italy, the triumph of Camillus, on the ceiling of the great hall in the Villa Borghese near Rome.

town;

town; we paid an evening visit to this old gentleman, who received us with affability, and brought out his portfolio with great complaisance; his excellency lies in the heads of old men and academy figures; he made me a present of a Cupid that has considerable merit both in design and colour. His brother, a clergyman, entertained us very agreeably with his performance upon the guitar, accompanied by two violins with mutes; he has made many improvements upon the instrument, and played some very pleasing plaintive music. I here met with another genius in a different line; his name is Bentevenga; his profession, the law. Without any assistance but a few books and prints, he has taught himself the principles of optics; has made telescopes and microscopes in astonishing perfection, by dint of perseverance and great natural sagacity; has turned a lens of very small diameter, with which he says he has detected the errors of Padre de la Torre's opinion, who supposes the globules of blood to be perforated.

In the garden of the Austin friars I saw several large pistachia \* nut-trees, called in Sicilian *scornabecco*, and the fruit *fastugo*. These trees are of Linnæus's *dioecia pentandria*, and produce male and female flowers upon different distinct plants. The latter prove barren and useless, unless rendered fruitful by the asperision of the pollen from a male plant, and, therefore, the purposes of fecundity can only be answered by trees of different sexes being set near each other. In these gardens are many of the female kind, and only one of the male, which has small, oblong, blunt leaves of a dusky green, the flowers thick, and in bunches; the female blossoms are more scattered, the leaves larger, harder, rounder, and of a lighter colour; the male flowers first, and some gardeners pluck them when shut, dry them, and afterwards sprinkle the dust over the female tree. But the method usually followed in Sicily, when the trees are far asunder,

\* Pistachia Sicula trifolia fol. sultern. nigricantibus.  
Lin. cl. 22. ord. 4.



is to wait till the female buds are open, and then to gather bunches of male blossoms ready to blow; these are stuck into a pot of moist mould and hung upon the female tree, till they are quite dry and empty; this operation is called *tuchiarare*, and never fails to produce fructification; sometimes the gardeners ingraft the male bud upon the female tree.

The Grecian name of this place implied hot mineral waters, and the identity of the situation is proved by the very strong springs that rise at the eastern foot of the hill; they gush out of a white clay, which lies upon a stratum of chalky stone. Within a very narrow compass I reckoned five fountains, one of them impregnated with sulphur, hot enough to boil an egg. This is used in cases of cutaneous and scorbutic habits, paralytic affections, &c. and is made to run into two courts, where men and women bathe separately. Another, called the aqua santa, is luke-warm, insipid to the palate, and very powerfully purgative; a third is quite cold, and

peculiarly esteemed for removing disorders in the eyes. The others have no particular taste or virtue; I was informed that upon digging near this place to the depth of two feet, a very cold salt water appears. These waters have the same effects as those that flow out of the Solfatara, or lake of Zenobia, below Tivoli; for, in running towards the sea, they leave so thick and lapideous a sediment, that in a very short time it is converted into a hard stone, or travertino\*. Behind the wells are fragments of the conduits, pipes, and buildings which were made by the ancients for the service of the baths. These waters most probably correspond with the bowels of the mountain of St. Calogero, which rises to the east, bare and rocky. Under the cliffs that crown its summit, are deep caverns, much resorted to by sick people in summer. The air on the first entrance is almost suffocating and hot as an oven, but becomes more tolerable by de-

\* Or tiburtino.—St. Peter's church at Rome is built with the same kind of stone.

grees,

grees, as a profuse perspiration is excited. Above is a hermitage dedicated to the Greek saint Calogero, which in reality is a generical term, and answers to the modern Greek word *Caloyer*, a wandering friar; all the good effects of these vapour-stoves are piously attributed to his intercession; and, if any mischief happens, it is laid at the door of the devil and his imps, who are supposed to have kept possession of some part of these dark and burning abodes.

January 1, 1778. The weather had been for some days very rainy; but now it cleared up, and enabled me to pursue my journey, which the hospitality of Sciacca had almost made me lose sight of. I took my leave with regret of persons whose hearty welcome was enhanced by an easy politeness I little expected to meet with in a place so far removed from courts and the fashionable world.

I travelled between the sea and mount San Calogero, over a hilly, open track, through deep and dirty roads to the banks of the river

Verdura \*. Here my guide stopped short, and pronounced the waters impassable; but, as I was well accustomed to wild countries and the fords of mountain torrents, I drove my mule into the stream, and reached the opposite shore without accident. I have always found Italian conductors timorous upon such occasions. It is usual for men to wade on each side of a horseman to prevent his being carried away by the stream; but wherever I have been so escorted, the river has been far from dangerously deep or rapid, or I am confident my guides would not have ventured. Their only use is to point out the best places for crossing.

Rice is cultivated on the banks of this river, but the higher lands are quite waste. On the summit of a very lofty mountain, which overlooks the whole course of the river, stands the town of Calatabellota, the worst situated place for any of the comforts of life I ever beheld. The position is so elevated, that I could scarcely

\* Anciently Isburus.



believe it inhabited; the difficulty of access and communication with the rest of the world have given a very bad name to its inhabitants, whom my friends at Sciacca represented to me as a most lawless tribe. It has succeeded to Triocala, a strong and famous city, of which the ruins are still in being about a mile below. I was foolish enough to give way to the apprehensions my companions had conceived of the Calatabellota banditti, and to abandon the intention I had of visiting those ruins, where great quantities of medals are annually dug up\*.

Here Trypho and Athenio, two runaways, established the head-quarters of the republick of slaves, whom they had rescued from bondage in the 649th year of Rome. By the singular strength of the situation they were able to carry on a war for four years, and to defend themselves with

\* Numus Triocalensis.

Ex Argento.

Vir nudus bovem dimidium cornibus tenens—Dimidium equi TRIAKAAA.

success against their masters, who in vain invested the fortress. The insurrection became so weighty a concern, that it was found worthy of a consular army, and accordingly Aquilius undertook the war, which he happily ended by the destruction of the whole body of insurgents.

Triocala was the first place of any consequence that fell into the hands of the Arabian invaders, and one of the last they yielded to the Norman victors. Under its walls they received a bloody defeat from earl Roger, by which their power was irretrievably broken, and their necks bowed beneath his yoke. During their struggles, they brought hither, as to a safe repository, their accumulated riches, and the plunder of the whole island; the great treasures found here at various times are proofs how much they had hoarded and buried. I look upon them as the founders of Calatabellota, which they deemed a more impregnable situation than the old city; it has frequently been a place of refuge for the weaker party in the civil wars of Sicily, and

is accused at this day of sheltering many proscribed villains. Sybilla, the widow of king Tancred, fled hither with her unfortunate family, and might here have bid defiance to the force of Henry of Swabia, if she had not been deceived into a capitulation by the perfidious emperor, who violated every article of it.

## SECTION XXXVII.

**A**FTER riding ten miles, I ascended by a hill covered with vines to Ribera, a large village or burgh of three thousand eight hundred souls, regularly but meanly built. The habitations of the richer inhabitants have a first floor; but the dwellings of the poorer sort are not raised above the ground floor; a mode of building which is adopted to prevent the fatal effects of earthquakes. This place was settled, in the year 1633, by Aloysius Moncada,  
prince

prince of Paterno, who gave it the family name of his consort, daughter to the duke of Alcala.

I was received at the house of an old baroness, a widow, who, with her son and daughter-in-law, paid the utmost attention to the letter I brought from their friends at Sciacca. The room we supped in was an ordinary bed-chamber; but the entertainment was plentiful and good: ceremony predominated at first to a troublesome degree; none of the company would taste a morsel unless I helped both them and myself; a fashion I was not aware of: I take it to be founded upon an idea of having given every thing to the guest, and then receiving at his hands what he can spare. As soon as I discovered the reason of their abstinence, I endeavoured to atone for my ignorance by serving each person with alertness and profusion; the ladies accepted whatever was offered; but having made their evening meal before my arrival, left it on their plates untouched. In a short time we became more sociable, and conversation



tion began to run on familiarly. In their rough way and odd dialect, they made me many protestations of a sincere welcome, and of satisfaction at my visiting their town, answered all my questions with great frankness and good sense, and entertained me with many curious anecdotes relative to the famous outlaws that a few years ago infested this part of Sicily. The chief of them was Testagrossa of Butera, who, with twenty-four associates, laid all the country under contribution: they were a set of bloody miscreants, and perpetrated horrid barbarities on the wretches that had incurred their displeasure, and fell into their hands. The prince of Butera, whose head they had devoted to destruction, took such effectual measures, that all the gang were in their turn caught, and put to death with the most excruciating tortures that could be devised.

It required a very fatiguing stretch of attention to follow the thread of these narratives. When the young gentleman spoke I made out  
his

his meaning with ease; but the women went on with so much more eagerness and rapidity, and their language and pronunciation were so much coarser, that I was often quite bewildered.

This dialect is considerably perverted from the Tuscan idiom, but not near so much as the vulgar Neapolitan.

The oldest language spoken in this island, of which any remains are left, was the Phœnician, which exists on numberless coins of all metals, and in some inscriptions; we have no monuments, or even notion of the tongue used by the Siculi, or other early possessors of Sicily. Greek was introduced by two sets of colonies; in one the Doric dialect prevailed; the other spoke the Attic; this is clearly demonstrated by the prince of Torremuza, from authentic documents, in opposition to many learned antiquaries, who have asserted, that the Doric only was in use throughout all the settlements.

The Grecian language was spoken without mixture till Augustus sent eight bodies of Roman

man citizens to form colonies in various parts of Sicily : these new-comers gradually brought Latin, the language of the ruling nation, into common use, and corrupted the Greek. It is, however, probable, that the new tongue had not time to acquire an absolute dominion, before the connection between Sicily and Greece was renewed by means of the seat of empire being removed to Constantinople.

The irruption and sojourn of the Goths did not exceed sixty-one years, and therefore cannot be supposed to have operated very effectually upon the manners or language of the Sicilians. The Saracenic government made more impression ; for in a reign of two hundred years it new-named many towns, introduced Arabic into histories, coins, and inscriptions, and contributed greatly to the banishment of the Greek idiom ; though its Christian subjects may be presumed to have retained the language of their forefathers, they certainly abandoned it very speedily after the arrival of the Normans : since  
that

that epocha a variety of masters have introduced a variety of languages. The Norman dialect, blended with Roman, German, Italian, Spanish, and some remnants of the old tongue, have imperceptibly coalesced in composing the present jargon. Many poems in this national dialect have been printed; but their style, turn, and pronunciation, have been rendered softer, and more polished, than the common conversation of the natives.—I have not met with any good prose compositions in this dialect, nor do I know that any exist: this dearth of excellent productions arises from the little attention paid to the improvement of the language spoken by the Sicilians, who certainly had, at one period of time, a reasonable prospect of dictating to all Italy in matters of learning and eloquence: for it was in their island that Frederick of Swabia, and his son Manfred, both men of genius and encouragers of science, courted the Muses, and to their vernacular idiom it was that they entrusted the expression of their thoughts; this  
example



example and protection ought to have remained for ever as a stimulus in the minds of the Sicilians, to excite them to cultivate and polish their native tongue; but no efforts were made, no fortune attended it, though Dante makes the appellation of *Siciliana favella* synonymous to modern poetic language. Scarcely a poet of moderate genius is to be discovered among the versifiers that have rhymed their native dialect; grave Sicilian authors, diffident of their ability to write with elegance in the Tuscan language, which they disliked as foreign, and, conscious of the insufficiency of the Sicilian, conveyed their information through the channel of Latin. This affront was offered to the dialect of Sicily at a time when the Florentines were busied in perfecting the Tuscan idiom, and rendering it worthy of the pens of those great wits that have conferred upon it so brilliant and extensive a reputation. They employed with success these happy materials, which presented innumerable resources, were equal to the expression of

of the noblest sentiments, and the painting of the most beautiful imagery ; and displayed variety and abundance combined with solidity, elegance, and harmony. Such is the soft, yet nervous language, on which Dante, Boccaccio, Ariosto, Tasso, and a crowd of eminent men, have conferred immortality ; while the Sicilian method of speaking Italian, though, perhaps, formed before the Tuscan, remains to this day neglected and disesteemed.

To return to my company : we spent several hours in amusing converse, till the time of retiring was announced by a servant. I was then struck with amazement on being conducted to a magnificent apartment, more conveniently and richly furnished than any room I had yet seen in Sicily. The floor was laid with glazed tiles, painted with the arms of the family ; the bedposts were gilt, the furniture fine damask, the windows of large Venice glass, the walls stuccoed, and coloured in distemper, and hung with mirrors. The servants had been regaled with  
such

such liberality, that they spent half the night in extolling the hospitality of our good hosts.

## SECTION XXXVIII.

**N**EXT morning, as soon as the clouds were dispersed, for it had rained heavily all night, I set out and travelled about an hour through a hilly country abounding with numberless plants, which, in other countries, are reared in gardens for medicinal uses. We descended into a spacious plain open to the sea, and shut up on the north side by a broken theatre of mountains. In the bosom of it stands La Catholica\*, the chief town of the district. From the road it appeared considerable; the

\* La Catholica was founded in 1612 out of several small hamlets, by Francis Isfar, lord of the soil. It is now possessed by the family of Bonanni, who take the title of princes of La Catholica. The number of its inhabitants exceeds seven thousand.

heights are covered with fruit-trees, of which the almond was already in full blow.

The whole plain is naked ; through the middle of it flows the river Platani \* in a deep channel, which the waters have worn in a stratum of rich soil many yards thick, without the least mixture of stone.

Our embarrassment was great upon finding the river much swoln with the rains, muddy, and declared impassable by a knot of muletiers, who were assembled on the banks in deep consultation. As a very short time was requisite to return to Ribera if the passage should prove impracticable, and I was desirous of giving the hospitable baroness no more trouble than was

\* Anciently Halycus, or Camycus, (for antiquaries differ on this point) remarkable for being the boundary appointed between the Carthaginian and Grecian territories. Near its mouth was situated the city of Heraclea Minoa, finally destroyed by the Saracens. The plough has long passed over every part of it, but frequently yet turns up coins and other antiquities belonging to it.



absolutely indispensable, I determined to attempt a passage by all possible means. A man waded into various parts of the water, but soon found by a pole, that neither man nor horse could pass without swimming. The rain that had fallen, and still continued to fall, in the mountains, at the head of the Platani, threatened a long continuance of inundation; and the whole company stood wistfully looking at each other, without any hopes of accomplishing their purpose.

In the midst of our dilemma there came up a young man, proprietor of a shad-fishery on the river; he hailed his fishermen, who dwelt in huts on the opposite bank, and ordered them to convey me and my baggage across the water. They effected it in the following singular manner\*.

In

\* The Count de Borck, a Polish gentleman, author of Letters on Sicily and Malta, to whom I lent my collection of drawings, caused a view of this passage to be engraved, unknown to me, and inserted it in his book. But, as he

In order to fix the nets that intercept the fish as they go up to spawn, five or six small islands have been made in a line across the stream by means of stakes wattled together, and of sods well beaten down; willows and tamarisks have taken root, and secure the islands from the violence of floods; across the channels that separate these patches of land, through which the torrent rushes with vast impetuosity, the fishermen laid long dried stalks of aloe, the only poles they use in their business. Upon these trembling poles they rolled our baggage, and we ourselves crept on all-fours. As the sticks were not in number sufficient to allow of bridges being laid at the same time over every channel, the successive removals of the materials with which they were

never was upon the spot, he has injudiciously given the extraordinary method in which I was conveyed over the river for the usual manner of passing it at all times. I should not take notice of this circumstance, had he not thought proper to put my name to the print, which may have induced his readers to think that I was connected with him, or concerned in the compilation of his work.

formed rendered our operations extremely tedious, and the greatest part of the day slipped away in accomplishing a general transit: by means of a rope carried across, and tied to the horses and mules, they were drawn into the water, and forced to swim over. While I was taking some refreshment in the hovel, I was surprised with a sudden report like that of a cannon, occasioned by the river's having undermined a large piece of the loamy cliff, which being divided from the rest of the field by its own weight, fell headlong into the water with a very loud noise; this accident happened repeatedly before we left the place, and is the consequence of every flood. The fishery is abundant in shad-fish, which come up at this season in great numbers, and are esteemed very delicate eating; the rent of the fishery is two hundred and fifty ounces a year.

Having at length overcome all difficulties, I took leave of the honest fellows that had been so serviceable, but it was with great difficulty

I could obtain the master's permission to requite them for their trouble.

After leaving the plain, where the corn and grafs were in equal forwardness, we came to very hilly ground, deep clay, and narrow, rugged paths; the rocks gypsum. We passed near Montalegre\*, a fief of the duke of Angio, on an eminence furrounded by very pretty gardens. Here night overtook us, and made the remainder of the journey disagreeable and dangerous. The ways were perfect sloughs, and the declivities slippery and perilous for horses, while it was next to impossible to advance on foot. After descending in darkness to the sea-shore, we were

\* This place was settled in the last century by a concourse of people, who found themselves exposed to the attacks of the Algerines while they lived in straggling dwellings in the open country. As these settlers were vassals, the town was of course feudal, and in 1633 was erected into a duchy for John de Joen, in whose posterity it still remains. I could not learn why it is called Angio, or Anjou, unless it be a corruption of Angira an ancient town formerly existing here or in the neighbourhood.

obliged



obliged to ride up the bed of a torrent under lofty rocks, and then to climb a winding path to Siculiana, a town of five thousand souls, belonging to the prince of La Catholica, to whom it yields annually an income of fourteen thousand crowns \*. His steward lodged me in a warm apartment in the old baronial castle, and provided every thing requisite for the relief of weary travellers. Siculiana is remarkable for not having a single convent within its precincts, owing either to the dangers of a visit from the Mahometans, or to the recent foundation of the town. The want of friars and nuns must not be ascribed to any deficiency of zeal in the inhabitants, or any improvements in philosophy; for on the wall of my apartment I found pasted up a thesis to be maintained in the schools of Girgenti by a native of Siculiana. He therein undertakes to prove, " that the Copernican system " is impious, absurd, and contradictory to Holy " Writ; from which it is evident, that the earth

\* Siculiana was rebuilt by Frederick of Chiaramonte.

“stands still, and the sun moves round it, like  
“the sails of a windmill round the pivot.”

Siculiana is pleasantly situated on two hills joined together by a long street; the vale below full of orange and other fruit trees, and the view of the sea very extensive.

We had next day some bad road through strong clays in the bottoms, and over chalky rocks on the hills. The grounds are well cultivated, but the summits are bare, and composed of shining stone, which the neighbours burn into lime. This difficulty in our progress ended at the shore which we rode along to the new port of Girgenti. The beach is strewn with small bits of polished marble, but I could not discern any vestiges of ancient edifices near it, or guess whence they can have come, except they have been washed down by the torrents, and thrown back by the waves. Nature has done little towards the formation of a port here, and to the recent assistance of art alone is Girgenti indebted for this essential convenience.

The

The harbour is formed by means of a pier carried out in three sides of an octagon, with a battery at the head; the light-house is erected on the cliffs on shore, as there is no possibility of raising it high enough on the mole without danger of sinking. The work is admirable as to strength and neatness; but the intention of creating a safe and compleat haven has not been fully answered; the Scirocco commands it entirely, and drives in great quantities of sand, which I fear will in time choak up the port; even now ships of burden find it difficult to get in, but the Caricatore is considerable, and the magazines in the rocks along the shore very spacious.

The harbour is formed by means of a pier carried out in three sides of an oblong, with a battery at the head; the light-house is erected on the cliffs on shore, as there is no possibility of raising it high enough on the mole without danger of sinking. The work is admirable as to strength and neatness; but the intention of creating a safe and complete haven has not been fully answered; the Sirocco commands it entirely, and drives in great quantities of sand, which I fear will in time choke up the port; even now ships of burden find it difficult to get in, but the Captain is confident, and the magazines in the town along the shore very spacious.





# I N D E X

O F

Remarkable PLACES, PERSONS, and THINGS.

## V O L. III.

| A                                  |                  | B                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|                                    | Page             |                      | Page                |
| <b>A</b> BRUZZO, province          | 362              | Baia, ruins          | 41                  |
| Agnano, lake                       | 65               | Barliardus, forcerer | 182                 |
| Agriculture                        | 8. 161. 329. 364 | Baths                | 20. 24. 47. 66. 388 |
| Agrippa Marcus, Consul             | 53               | Belici, river        | 374                 |
| Alcamo                             | 346              | <b>C</b>             |                     |
| Alphonfus I. of Sicily, 65. 84. 91 |                  | Calatabellota        | 390                 |
| Amalfi                             | 220              | Calatafimi           | 350                 |
| Amphitheatres                      | 58. 203          | Capri, island        | 1. 288              |
| Anacapri                           | 10               | Capodimonte, palace  | 96                  |
| Aqueducts                          | 36. 91. 133      | Carini               | 341                 |
| Aristodemus, Tyrant                | 30               | Caserta              | 127. 133            |
| Astruni, park                      | 63               | Castelvetrano        | 362                 |
| Averno, lake,                      | 51               | Catacombs            | 97                  |
| Augustus, Emperor                  | 5. 50            | Cava                 | 169                 |
| Avocata, convent                   | 212              | Charles I. of Naples | 117                 |
|                                    |                  | Charles              |                     |

Charles III. of Naples Page 163 Hiero II. of Syracuse Page 26

Conradine of Swabia 94 Horfes, breed of 134

Cuma, ruins 29

## I J

D Jews 126  
Dionysius, Tyrant 267 Inscriptions 146. 180

E Ifchia, island 26  
Elmo, St. castle 86 Ifchia, Borgo d' 17

Elyfian Fields 38 L  
Epomeo, mountain 19 Lakes, of Patria 27. Fusaro 33.  
Eruptions 18 Lucrine 50. Averno 50

F Language of Sicily 396  
Favorotta 342 Linternum, ruins 27  
Fishes 237. 330. 403 Lotharius, Emperor 232  
Foria 25 Lottery 99  
Frederick II. Emperor 116. 191 Luna family 377

## M

G Madiuni, river 366  
Galli, islands 240 Majuri 216  
Game 7. 207 Malta, order of 216  
Gloia Flavius 228 Maniaces, General 275  
Gregory VII. Pope 178 Maremorto 34  
Grottoes 32. 66. 84 Marius, Caius, Consul 36

H Memfrici 375  
Henry VI. Emperor 188 Montalegre 406  
Herculaneum, ruins 138 Montenovio, volcano 48  
Hermitages 4. 22 Montepelegrino, mountain 317

Monte

|                       |          |                              |                                           |
|-----------------------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Monte S. Calogero     | Page 388 | Procida, island              | Page 13                                   |
| Monreale              | 331      | Procida, John of             | 15. 183. 186                              |
| Museum of Portici     | 140      | Productions                  | 40. 195. 386. 387                         |
| ——— Jesuits           | 314      | Puzzuoli                     | 57                                        |
| N                     |          | R                            |                                           |
| Naples                | 87       | Revolt of Palermo            | 305                                       |
| Neapolitans           | 118      | Ribera                       | 393                                       |
| Nisida, island        | 67       | Robert Duke of Normandy      | 191                                       |
| Nocera                | 159      | Roger King of Sicily         | 87                                        |
| O                     |          | Romulus, Augustulus, Emperor | 22                                        |
| Octavianus Cæsar      | 35       | Rosalia, St.                 | 317                                       |
| P                     |          | S                            |                                           |
| Padre, Rocco          | 107      | Salerno                      | 176                                       |
| Palace of Portici     | 144      | Sannazar, James              | 73                                        |
| ——— Naples            | 97       | Saro, river                  | 153                                       |
| ——— Caferta           | 128      | Scafata                      | ib.                                       |
| ——— Palermo           | 305      | School of Salerno            | 189                                       |
| Palagonia, villa      | 324      | Sciacca                      | 376                                       |
| Palermo               | 290      | Scipio's villa               | 28                                        |
| Pandects of Justinian | 232      | Segesta, ruins               | 352                                       |
| Perollo family        | 377      | Seggi of Naples              | 104                                       |
| Pesto, ruins          | 194      | Selinus, ruins               | 366                                       |
| Piedigrotta, church   | 79       | Sepulchres                   | 29. 33. 38. 73. 84.<br>152. 178. 301. 335 |
| Platani, river        | 402      | Sico, Prince of Salerno      | 223                                       |
| Pompeii, ruins        | 146      | Siculiana                    | 407                                       |
| Pompeius, Sextus      | 35       | Silari,                      |                                           |
| Pontanus, Jovius      | 73       |                              |                                           |
| Pofilipo              | 69       |                              |                                           |

|                                  |          |                           |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| Silari, river                    | Page 206 | V                         |          |
| Sirens                           | 241      | Valguarnera, villa        | Page 328 |
| Solfatara, volcano               | 62       | Vicaria, tribunal         | 101      |
| Solus, ruins                     | 329      | Vida, Jerome              | 75       |
| Sibylla of Conversano            | 192      | Vietri                    | 174      |
| —— II. of Sicily                 | 393      | Virgil                    | 70       |
| T                                |          | U                         |          |
| Tancred, King of Sicily          | 188      | Urban VI. Pope            | 164      |
| Temples 51. 58. 147. 201. 353.   |          | Ustica, island            | 289      |
|                                  | 366      | W                         |          |
| Theatres 98. 131. 146. 353       |          | William Q. King of Sicily | 333      |
| Tiberius, villa of               | 4        | Z                         |          |
| Torrione del Carmine             | 89       | Zizza, palace             | 336      |
| Toledo, Pedro de, Viceroy 49, 80 |          |                           |          |



END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.



